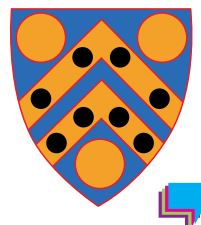


KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE



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Traders' places

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Memory Lane

Club that has been just ace for tennis players

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Dream is over

Amy ponders her swimming future after the Olympics

Back Page



Tragedy sparks call for screening



Luke Chapman

A CORONER called for a national heart screening programme for young people after a 15-year-old Hagley boy died during a rugby match.

Luke Chapman, of Meadowcroft, died from sudden adult death syndrome after developing an irregular heartbeat without warning.

He was playing rugby at Baxter College, Kidderminster on March 20, Birmingham Coroner's Court heard. He was playing for his school, Haybridge High, Hagley.

Birmingham Deputy Coroner Sarah Ormond-Walshe, recording a verdict of natural causes, said she would write to the Department of Health asking for a national heart screening programme to be considered.

Heart specialist Dr Mary Sheppard, of London's Brompton Hospital, told the inquest 10 to 12 under-35s died every week in Britain from sudden adult arrhythmia.

Dr Sheppard said in Italy a national screening programme had reduced similar deaths by 40 per cent.

Boy is hurt in car crash

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy suffered abdominal injuries in a collision with a car in Kidderminster.

Paramedics and police were called to a car park off Stadium Close.

The boy was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said it was not believed the boy's injuries were serious.

£120m WASTE PLANT WINS THE GO-AHEAD

Allen scales Mount Snowdon aged 92

DETERMINED walker Allen Birch has been celebrating after conquering Mount Snowdon for the fifth time, raising more than £3,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance in the process – and all at the age of 92.

The great-grandfather shows no signs of slowing down. He only started his annual climb of the 3,560ft Welsh mountain at the age of 86 and now trains for his fundraising efforts by walking 14 miles in the West Midlands every Saturday.

Mr Birch, a former soldier in the Royal Engineers, has now raised more than £20,000 for charity with his walks.

Last year he raised £3,320 for the Help for Heroes charity.

Mr Birch, who was a building manager at Brintons Carpets in Kidderminster before his retirement at 67, arrived at the base of Snowdon at 8.30am and had reached the top by 1pm.

The trip was postponed by a day due to heavy rain but the sun shone when he made the summit.

Tradition

Fellow walkers stopped to congratulate him on his efforts. And Mr Birch, of Bewdley, continued his tradition of cutting a specially-made cake he had taken along.

Mr Birch, who served during the Second World War in Hamburg and Egypt, is already planning next year's Snowdon trip.

He said: "When I got to the top everyone saw me and they realised I was getting on a bit, so they started cheering and clapping."

"I went to the restaurant there and cut the cake. It was a really nice day."

"I am getting older and slower, but I definitely plan to keep going to keep fit."



The intrepid Allen Birch, who has scaled Mount Snowdon for the fifth time

CAMPAIGNERS who have battled a planned £120m waste incinerator near Kidderminster are deciding whether to continue their fight after it won the go-ahead.

The plans were approved by Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles after a three-year campaign by local residents.

The EnviRecover plant in Hartlebury could be open by late 2013 and bosses say they hope to start building by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the campaigners are taking legal advice on what to do next.

The Mercia Waste Management plant will take up to 200,000 tons of waste from Worcestershire and Herefordshire each year.

This will then be converted into up to 15.5 megawatts of electricity – enough to supply about 20,000 homes.

But the scheme, unveiled in 2009, prompted more than 1,100 letters of objection from people living in the area and a petition against the plant was signed by 2,300 people.

Mercia Waste spokeswoman Julie Fourcade said: "There are still hurdles to get past with contractual agreements but we expect to be ready to get started very soon."

Decision

Campaign group Worcestershire Residents Against Incineration and Landfill (WAIL) fear an increase in traffic and pollution, and that the development would damage the landscape. The group raised thousands of pounds to fight the scheme.

They have been meeting their legal team and have said they intend to oppose the decision.

WAIL chairman Ray Kirby said: "We won't make a decision on what to do next until we have taken advice. We have to look at the issues of costs and how long it would take."

The plans went before a public inquiry last November after being called in by Mr Pickles.

WAIL argued neither Mercia Waste Management nor Worcestershire County Council had looked at alternative methods of waste disposal.

They argued that other methods, including anaerobic digestion where micro-organisms break down waste, would be a better alternative.

Mercia director John Plant said: "EnviRecover is an appropriate and sustainable waste management solution that brings added benefits through generating renewable energy, and stimulating the local economy."

"This state-of-the-art residual waste treatment infrastructure will end reliance on unsustainable and costly landfill."

Gang of thugs in dramatic shop raid

STAFF at a Tesco store in Kidderminster were threatened by an armed gang in a terrifying raid.

The drama happened on Sunday night.

Four men in dark clothing and wearing balaclavas walked into Tesco Express, in Stourbridge Road, just before 11pm.

The thugs had weapons including a crowbar.

The three shop workers were threatened by the gang who demanded cigarettes and cash.

They then fled with their haul. No-one was hurt and it is not yet clear how much money was taken.

Police investigating the raid believe it may be linked with another incident in the town centre just after 10.30pm.

In that incident, a man in a balaclava smashed the rear windscreen of a car in Lion Street with a crowbar just as the motorist was getting into the vehicle.

Detective Inspector Dean Jones said: "We are looking at whether these incidents are linked."

Anyone with information about either incident is asked to call police on 101, quoting incident reference 645-S-050812.

Man injured in assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an assault in Kidderminster which left a man with a fractured jaw.

It happened between 1am and 5am on July 28, in Green Street.

The victim, in his 20s, had just left Tribe nightclub when he was assaulted. He was left unconscious.

Pc Kay Fillmore said: "This was a nasty attack and as a victim had to have surgery to insert metal plates into his jaw."

Witnesses are asked to call 0300 333 3000, quoting 444-S-030812.

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New double market is ready to open in town

A NEW indoor and outdoor market is to open in Kidderminster at the end of the month.

Work has been taking place to transform the former Worcestershire Antiques Centre, in New Road, into a modern market which will look like a shopping mall.

Bosses say a small amount of work is still needed to complete the indoor part of The Market Place but the outdoor part is ready for traders to use.

It is hoped the area will be used to sell foods and goods from around the globe and closer to home once it is fully up and running.

Prospective traders were given their first chance to look around the new market at an open event.

And people can continue to see the facilities.

Bosses said there had been a great deal of interest in the site since banners first went up announcing the new market a few weeks ago.

Community

Firm's boost for hospice charity walk

RECRUITMENT specialist First Personnel, which has an office in Kidderminster, will be the official sponsor of the Mid-night Walk in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice, for the third year running.

The event, which last year raised nearly £100,000 for local life-limited and life-threatened children, will see up to 1,500 women walking a 10km route in Birmingham City Centre on September 15 to raise money for the charity.

Starting at midnight at the Town Hall in Victoria Square, the route will wind its way past the Jewellery Quarter, St Phillip's Cathedral and Brindley Place.

Entry for the walk is £12 which includes a special T-shirt and a medal. For details see www.acorns.org.uk/midnight-walk

And they said a hairdresser had already agreed to set up in the indoor market.

Work has been taking place at the site for months and bosses said they were "very proud" of what they had achieved.

It is the town's only indoor market of its kind and bosses said they hoped it would bring a greater sense of community to the town.

Spokesman Marianne Taba said: "Work on the market is now nearly completed.

"There is still some painting to be done but people can now get a very clear indication of what it will look like."



Management team members Hossein Ghahreh and Chris Hampton

Auction's cash help for carers

AN auction has raised more than £600 for a charity as part of a year of support from a Black Country store.

Sainsbury's in Amblecote is raising cash for Insight For Carers in Brierley Hill.

The event at Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill, generated £613.

The charity was founded in 2009 and helps carers and their families in the Dudley borough, offering support, advice and information.

Lorraine Stockton, the charity's project co-ordinator, said: "It was a lovely evening and we were overwhelmed by all the items donated for auction and the money raised on the night."

"It was a fantastic effort by everyone and we really appreciate Sainsbury's raising awareness of the services provided."

Last year £4,073 was raised for the Brierley Hill Project. At the auction, Sainsbury's Amblecote presented a £50 cheque to its three previous charity partners Parkinsons UK, The Black Country Talking Newspaper & Magazine, and The Brierley Hill Project.

Museum night

BLACK Country Living Museum opens after hours on August 18 for a half-price night of family entertainment. The gates open at 6.30pm and close at 10pm.

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Festival is on its way back to town

A POPULAR country and western festival, which attracts hundreds of people every year, return to Stourport on August 18 and 19.

The event will be held at the town's riverside and feature bands and solo performers from across the region.

Activities will run on the Saturday from noon to 8pm and on the Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Artists confirmed for the event include Nancy Ann Lee, Marty Smith, Pete Shaw, Tony Rouse and Tim McKay.

The event has been popular with country music fans since it was first held in 2007, and many people dress in period costume for the occasion.

Alongside the music there will be stalls, line-dancing, and a fast-draw shoot-out. The event is free but there is a charge for some activities.

Overnight camping is available. People can apply to alison.bakr@wyreforestdc.gov.uk.

For more information about the festival call 01562 732994.

Sale at church

A NEARLY new book sale will be held at All Saints Church in Kidderminster road, Bewdley on Monday, August 13, from 10am to noon.

Computer delays hit council move to new headquarters

WYRE Forest District Council has been forced to delay moving more than 200 staff into its new multi-million pound headquarters, because vital computer systems will not be installed in time.

The authority had planned to move into the new building at Finepoint Business Park, near Stourport, at the start of September.

But bosses have been told BT is unable to install data links for the council's computer system as scheduled.

Council leader Councillor John Campion said the delay had meant putting back the installation of other IT facilities at the building.

He said the authority had been left with no choice but to reschedule the planned transfer of staff.

Planned

Workers are now expected to move into the site at the beginning of October – a month later than originally planned.

Councillor Campion said the delay would have no financial impact on the council and would not disrupt the authority's work.

"Unfortunately this is out of our control and we are very disappointed the move will not take place as scheduled. The plan has always been to move into the new site by the start of September so to have to reschedule at such a late stage has been unfortunate."

The new building has proved controversial since it was announced in 2010. Some councillors said existing facilities should have been modernised instead to save money.



Rock Tavern owner Matthew Lees celebrates the CAMRA award



The front of the Rock Tavern pub, Stourport

Pub serves up a top award from CAMRA

A PUB has been presented with a prestigious award honouring the quality of its beer and service, just months after re-opening.

The Rock Tavern, in Wilden Lane, Stourport, has been named Pub of the Season by the Campaign for Real Ale.

Bosses at the pub, which re-opened in December, said they were delighted to receive the accolade. The award honours consistent quality of the real ales available, a welcoming atmosphere and the friendliness of staff.

A rockface runs at the back of the pub and tables have been placed there to create a covered drinking area with a difference.

Owner Matthew Lees, aged 43, said he had been told the pub was getting the award a few weeks ago and has now been presented with the accolade.

"It is all done in secret. You do not know who is coming in to do the judging. It is wonderful the pub has received the award," he said.

Deadline extended for care feedback

A CONSULTATION on the future of community care in Worcestershire has been extended until the end of August.

The county council has been asking for feedback from residents and campaign groups about proposed changes.

It is looking at putting a limit on the amount it could spend on an individual with mental health, learning and or physical disabilities' community care packages, which support people to live at home.

The proposals, if adopted, would apply to new service users only, with current service users only affected if their assessed care needs significantly changed.

It was due to finish at the end of July, but following feedback, the authority's adult social care team has extended it until the end of the month.

The council says the proposal would not see people forced into care homes against their will. It wants to make community care packages to support people to live independently, more cost effective.

Sport on offer

LEISURE centres in Dudley host the Summer Active-zone scheme until August 13. Sports for youngsters include cricket, football, gymnastics and tennis.

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NEWS

Firm lights up with Games contract

A KIDDERMINSTER lighting business completed work on a project to light up Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in time for the start of the Olympic Games.

PLM Illumination was awarded a £100,000 contract.

"We were thrilled to get the call to confirm the Millennium project," said managing director Phil Martin.

He started the company, based in Arthur Drive, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, 15 years ago.

"It's a real boost for the company

that our projects have caught the attention of both national and international designers."

"We are getting recognition in both the UK and worldwide as lighting experts with options to work on some amazing forthcoming projects."

Technology

The company designed the unique lighting system UniLed seven years ago.

This simple "plug in" system is the brainchild of Mr Martin and is the

basis for outdoor lighting-up projects.

"People are amazed that the unique UniLed technology that we provide for their gardens and outside areas, is the exact same technology used on our biggest projects such as the Millennium Stadium," said technical director, Julian Ding.

Growing demand for UniLed domestic and garden lighting, has led to increased sales figures for lighting company Garden's 2 Glow who stock the lighting products.

'Homecoming' for mayor to unveil restored property



Mayor Councillor John Aston cuts the ribbon to officially open The Briars, which has been restored

IT was a homecoming with a difference when the mayor of Kidderminster opened a restored listed building.

Built in about 1870, The Briars in Habberley Road has a long history - and is thought to have once been home to the town's mayor.

It has been given a new lease of life by Elan Homes, and to celebrate the completion of the restoration project the present mayor, Councillor John Aston, was invited to cut the ribbon.

Ceremony

Marie Morris of Elan Homes said: "The Briars had fallen into a state of disrepair when we purchased it in 2010 and we have spent months lovingly restoring it so that the beauty of this property can be enjoyed for years to come."

"It's thought that the first resident was the solicitor, magistrate and mayor of Kidderminster William Boycott Jnr, so we felt it was fitting that the current mayor Councillor Aston should perform the ribbon-cutting ceremony."



The house still looks traditional

The local authority has listed the building because of its architectural and historic significance. And Councillor Aston said: "It was a privilege to open The Briars and I am delighted to see the building restored to its former glory. It makes a delightful and impressive family home."

A Masonic lodge which was a 1960s extension at the back of the house has been demolished and the rest of the building stripped back to the original walls.

"Visitors will be able to appreciate

the grandeur of the property as they make their way up the sweeping gravel driveway which leads to the house and around to the detached double garage at the side," Ms Morris said.

"They'll see that from the outside it has a very traditional look. Some of the windows have been retained and repaired but many were beyond repair and have been sympathetically replaced."

Repaired

"The original roof has been retained, repaired and re-insulated. But while externally it looks very much as it did in its glory days, inside it's been given a makeover to meet the demands of modern day family living."

The grand reception hallway emphasises the spacious nature of the home, which offers some 3,000 square feet of versatile accommodation including three reception rooms and a substantial kitchen, dining and family area, and five bedrooms.

The impressive property is now open for viewing Thursday to Monday from 10am to 5pm.

MP tackles Tesco on petrol prices

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has stepped up the local fuel fairness campaign.

He met Emma Reynolds, a representative of Tesco, to discuss the local petrol price anomalies - anomalies that mean that Tesco in Kidderminster charges 4p per litre more than the Tesco in Cradley Heath, just 13 miles away.

Mrs Reynolds explained that Tesco had a pricing policy that aimed to be

one of the most competitive within a three mile radius. The supermarket had also tried to become competitive by offering card points and other incentives that could result in up to 50p being knocked off each litre bought with vouchers.

Mr Garnier said: "Mrs Reynolds was unable to come up with a solution that can be made without changing the company's national pricing policy."

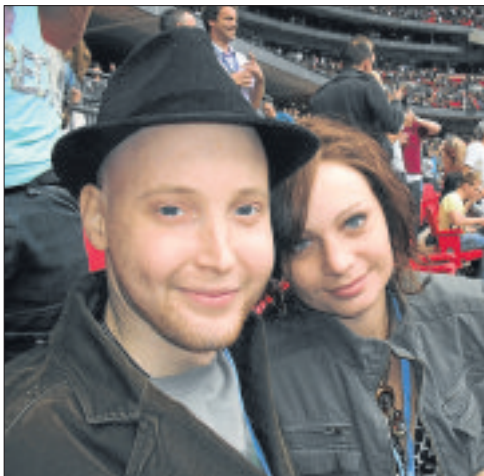
"She has agreed to meet her superiors. In the meantime, I am still very unhappy that Wyre Forest residents are paying more than 4p per litre more than neighbouring areas. I would urge people unhappy with this situation, to buy from cheaper retailers, especially Callow Oils at Chaddesley Corbett, who offer the most competitive price locally. Consumer power is the most effective pressure."

NEWS

Cycle challenge to keep Adam's memory alive



Stuart Bratt who will ride to Italy



Adam Beppard with girlfriend Gemma Bryan. He was 25 when he died

AN enthusiastic cyclist from Bridgnorth is planning a marathon ride to Italy in honour of a friend who died of cancer.

Stuart Bratt, 47, plans to cycle 1,500 miles to raise money for charity.

He will depart from his home town on September 1 and plans to arrive in Rimini two weeks later.

The heating engineer is doing the ride in honour of family friend Adam Beppard, who died at just 25.

Adam, of Perton, lost his 10-year fight against cancer in 2009.

His family hope a mammoth fundraising challenge will help keep his memory alive – and raise vital funds in the fight against the disease.

For Mr Bratt, the ride to Italy is just the latest in a series of challenges he has undertaken.

In 2009 and 2010 he cycled 500 miles to La Rochelle in France, and last year he joined a group ride from Vietnam to Cambodia.

Half of the funds raised this year will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust, which funded the young person's unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where Adam was treated.

He came to national attention while

at the hospital when he was filmed for a moving Channel 4 documentary, *Teenagers Fighting Cancer*.

Adam's father Tim said the unit made an impossible situation easier and thanked Stuart in advance for his amazing efforts.

He added: "Our son Adam is always in our thoughts and one of our biggest fears is that he will be forgotten."

"Stuart's fantastic annual ride not only benefits the Teenage Cancer Trust but also keeps Adam's name and spirit alive."

Visit www.justgiving.com/stuartbrattorianotet to donate to the appeal.

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NEWS

Police offer fun as way to keep out of trouble

FAMILIES in the Wyre Forest area are being encouraged to get active this summer – by the local police.

As part of West Mercia Police's "Respect" campaign aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour over the holidays, officers have been putting on events and have been working closely with the Wyre Forest District Council to advise on where and what activities could be held.

Officers are running a "Coffee in the Park" event every Friday until August 17 in St George's Park in Kidderminster.

The events at 6pm until 8pm offer fun and games for all ages along with free refreshments.

Concerns

They are being run in partnership with Vestia, Pathways and Friends of St George's Park and will give residents the opportunity to share the benefits of the park.

People will also have the chance to get advice from local police officers about any concerns.

Pc Andy Forbes said: "We hope residents will take the opportunity to come down and make the most of the park and to enjoy some fun and chat with friends."

by Tim Spiers

"If anyone has any issues to discuss we will be on hand to offer advice."

Youth inclusion community support officer Vanessa Halford has been working with the district council to advise on activities during the holidays.

She said: "There are some areas in Wyre Forest where there have been no activities for youngsters, and this has led to them getting into trouble."

"We hope that with the games, arts, sports and craft activities on offer we can help to reduce antisocial behaviour and get everyone having some fun."

Activities on offer include tennis, cycling, badminton, dog olympics, survival skills, ranger activities and crafts, including painting and jewellery making.

For more information see www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/summer

Art of glass on show



Glass art on a lake at Bodenham Arboretum

GLASS sculptures have gone on display on a lake at a Midland beauty spot as part of a festival expected to attract thousands of visitors from across the globe.

The Glass Afloat event has officially opened to the public at Bodenham Arboretum, in Wolverley, near Kidderminster.

Pieces have been created by artists from across the country, including the Black Country, and will remain on display until August 27. The event forms part of the International Festival of Glass which will be held at venues across Stourbridge from August 24 to 27.

It is the first time part of the festival has been staged at Bodenham Arboretum.

Spokesman Ruth Hutchins said: "It is a celebration of the UK's experimental and innovative glass scene and it is apt it should do so within striking distance of Stourbridge, the historical home of glass making."

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NEWS

Former stray Brutus in key Olympic police role

A DOG that was found wandering the streets as a stray is now helping to keep the Olympic Games safe.

Brutus and his handler Pc Steve Clarke are part of the West Mercia Police contingent seconded to London for the Games.

Brutus is now a specialist search dog, but he had an unhappy start to life. Luckily, as a stray, he was found and taken in by the Dogs Trust in Kenilworth.

His boisterous nature made him difficult to rehome, but his intelligence was spotted and he was put forward as a possible police dog.

Mick Chidgey of the Dogs Trust links the charity's 18 centres and 28 police forces. He said: "We are incredibly proud of our rescue dogs who are now working with the police."

"We have seen a huge interest from the police in the run-up to the Olympics. Many of the dogs would have been difficult to rehome, yet they are working, serving their country."

Dogs like three-year-old Brutus are trained arms and explosives dogs. They sweep the areas with their handlers looking for suspect devices. They also secure the entrance to the venues and protect the athletes' village.

Brutus got through his training and passed his exams with flying colours before being permanently assigned to Pc Clarke, based at Rubery.

Force Chief Inspector Andrew Milne said: "I'm delighted Brutus and Pc Clarke are at the Olympics to support the Metropolitan Police and help keep the Games safe. As a specialist search dog he has a vital role to play."

"West Mercia Police has an excellent relationship with Dogs Trust and is always grateful for their support. For many years they have proved to be a reliable source of police dogs and we rely on their expertise to pick the right rescue dogs for us."

"We give them a purpose and a home and the dogs have enjoyable careers."



Brutus, Pc Steve Clarke and Chief Inspector Andy Milne

Plea to help TV subtitle survey

ACTION on Hearing Loss is calling on TV viewers in Kidderminster who rely on subtitles to take part in a major survey which aims to identify problems with the television network that may affect the quality of subtitling. The survey can be taken at <http://svy.mk/subtitlesurvey> and the charity will pass the results to Ofcom.

Spokesman Roger Wicks said: "Poor subtitling is not always about misspelt words or time lags. Radio frequencies, aerial configurations or geographical locations can also affect the availability and quality of subtitles."



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LETTERS

Overcoming snobbish attitude to dialect

THE letter by Alan T Harrison in the Chronicle made some very good points. Mr Harrison was right in saying that "grammar is a description of the way language works" and he also made an excellent point about how the dialect has its own grammar.

I have sadly heard so many people – some of them Black Country people – who have spoken critically of the dialect, saying that it is "not English" and that dialect fea-

tures such as "we am" are "not good English".

An even greater annoyance is when people refer to the dialect as "slang". Slang is something different altogether. When I was a child in the late 80s and early 90s many of my teachers corrected kids for using dialect words. I worried about using the words in school for fear of being corrected in front of the whole class.

I always thought my teachers had a snobbish attitude

towards the dialect. In my last year at primary school I had a very middle-class teacher who once said to a kid in my class: "You can't walk into a bank and say 'I wor' and another time she questioned me and another kid about pronouncing "bus" as "buzz".

Attitudes towards the dialect seem slightly more relaxed nowadays, which is something that pleases me.

But many people in the Black Country still seem to

dislike the dialect, which is the closest to Old English than any other regional dialect in the country – as well as being an important part of our heritage.

People also need to know the difference between the meaning of the word "slang" and the meaning of the word "dialect".

Matt Mills,
Ettingshall Park Farm
Estate,
Wolverhampton.

Charade of G4S is blow to the forces

AND so the Olympic charade rolls on and on. Every day some monumental cock-up comes to light.

The highlight of course was the G4S scandal, and to think proposals are afoot to hand over six more prisons to these fools. It beggars belief.

No wonder our forces' morale is low, having been called in at the last moment to guard the Olympics.

Where do they put "our heroes"? Not in an hotel with first-class facilities, only accommodation at the lowest level.

Absolutely disgusting. I wonder what expletives come from our heroes' mouths when David Cameron says we're all in this together?

Malcolm Saxon,
Central Avenue,
Tipton.

Britain is lagging behind in technology

Having been very fortunate to holiday in America this year I was very surprised to see how far Britain is lagging behind with technology.

At the airport they have iris and finger recognition.

At Disney world they have finger recognition; they are also on 4g with mobile phones.

They have the next generation of HD on TVs being broadcast.

Back in Britain we are still waiting for this new wonder to be phased in so the companies that supply this service can rip us Brits off again.

Come on Britain catch up! Oh and the fuel is also less than 70p a litre, makes you think.

Mr P Cope
Longboat Lane,
Stourbridge.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Kidderminster Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

kidderminsterchronicle@
expressandstar.co.uk

Let's spend money on our real heroes

REGARDLESS of what the London Olympics costs me as a taxpayer (£27m on the opening ceremony alone), it's saving me money elsewhere.

All the programmes I would normally watch on the BBC have been taken off. So, because I can rarely find anything worth watching on the other channels, my TV will remain largely switched off for at least the next three weeks.

One programme I did watch was Helicopter Heroes, about the RAF search and rescue teams who use 30-year-old machines that are kept going thanks to dedicated mechanics. What they wouldn't be able to buy with £27m!

A survey revealed that 77 per cent of us have no interest in watching the Olympics or Paralympics. A fair proportion of the other 23 per cent will have been journalists, politicians and so-called celebrities who are given tickets.

The idiots who rule us would rather squander our money on so-called sports heroes than on modern equipment for the real heroes who save lives.

Mr R A Sargeant,
Corporation Road, Rosland Estate, Dudley.

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NEWS

18,000 more are wired up for faster broadband

Garden open for visitors



Part of the garden that the owners say will make visitors smile

A BEWDLEY garden opens to the public on Saturday for the last time this year.

Hunter's End in Button Bridge is a three-quarter acre plot with plants and decorative features which, owners Norma and Colin Page say, "create a smile and a laugh, with some quirky displays to enhance the humour".

There are many seating areas to relax and soak up the atmosphere and tranquility of the garden which has been featured in Amateur Gardening.

Hunter's End will be open from 11am to 5pm. Entry is £3 for adults and children go free. There will also be refreshments available and plants for sale.

FASTER broadband is now available to a further 18,000 homes and businesses in Worcestershire, BT announced.

Stourport, Pershore and Wolverley are the latest parts of the county to be upgraded. The BT investment will make available download speeds of up to 20 megabits per second (Mbps), more than double the fastest speed previously available from BT.

By next spring some 89 per cent of homes and businesses in the region will be served by an exchange which has been upgraded to deliver higher speeds.

Ken Wigfield, of the Federation of Small Businesses in Worcestershire, said: "This kind of investment by BT is vital for the continued prosperity of Worcestershire."

"In an increasingly competitive world, faster broadband is tremendously important for businesses and for individuals to develop their skills and education."

John Dovey, BT's West Midlands regional director, said: "Faster broadband is touching the lives of everyone - from small businesses and homeworkers, to internet shoppers, students, families and online gaming enthusiasts."

"Around 88 per cent of West Midlands homes and businesses now have access to faster broadband and within less than a year we expect this will have increased to about 89 per cent."

"But there is still much work to be done and we want to work with local authorities to find ways of getting to even the most challenging locations."

Fibre-based broadband is already available to more than 134,000 homes and businesses across Worcestershire, with more than 31,000 more earmarked for upgrades.

Blood donor sessions

BLOOD donors are wanted for a session tomorrow (Friday) at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, at 1.15pm-3.30pm, and 4.30pm-7.15pm. Booking an appointment is recommended by calling 0300 123 23 23.

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MEMORY LANE



Gwen Berryman, who played Doris in Radio 4's The Archers, opens the village fete in front of the tennis club in June 1955



Eddie Matthews, far right, with fellow Etching Hill Tennis Club members at a mixed tennis championship at Hagley Park School



Members line up for the official opening of the club back in 1952, which was performed by Kay Tuckey, No 2 Wightman Cup player, front centre



Wightman Cup player Kay Tuckey receives flowers before playing an exhibition match in 1952

Club has been ace for sets of tennis players

MEMBERS of a tennis club in Rugeley have served up 60 years.

Past and present members of Etching Hill Tennis Club were invited along to a Diamond Jubilee party at the club's East Butts Road clubhouse last week.

The club was officially opened back in July 1952 by No 2 Wightman Cup player Kay Tuckey, who played an exhibition match against Flo Judy Wallis, an RAF champion and a Wimbledon player.

The seeds were sown towards the club's inception when in the early 1940s a large field was made available for leisure use.

In 1947 a village hall was built and

by Marion Brennan

two hard tennis courts were added in 1952. A meeting of villagers decided that a tennis club should be formed with annual subscriptions set at 30s 6d.

Today, senior membership is £130.

In 1954 a hut, which had been used to house servicemen during the Second World War at Brindley Heath R.A.F. camp, was bought cheaply by the club and erected by members next to the village hall.

This was later replaced by a more modern brick building. In 1972 a third court was laid.

Nowadays, the club has three floodlit courts available for use throughout the year. Club sessions for senior

members are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings and the club is also host to a thriving junior contingent, whose training sessions are held on Monday nights and Saturday mornings.

Premier

Four men's teams, four mixed and three ladies teams compete in county and area leagues and the club has both men's and ladies teams in the top county premier league.

The clubhouse boasts a bar pool, table tennis and darts facilities and the club also has a thriving social membership and a cribbage team which plays in a local league on Tuesday evenings during the season.



Finals day at Etching Hill tennis Club 1981



The opening of the all-weather court in 1983

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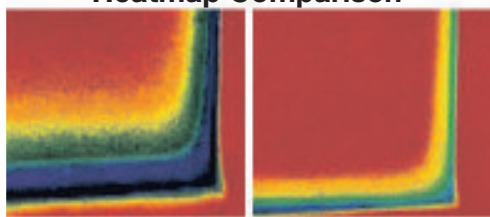
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DIVORCED lady 60, 5ft 6ins, medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes countryside, meals out, cinema, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391851

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393223

GOOD looking professional lady, 55, likes arts, travel, country walks, meals out, seeks genuine gent, 65 plus with GSOH for wonderful times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391781

FEMALE looking for a stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 386169 §

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 382087 §

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 378207 §

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392401 §

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391873 §

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393469 §

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks white/black male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375789

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 378295

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FEMALE seeks tall, handsome, muscular guy for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392765

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JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 386629 §

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KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391863

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 388297 §

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 360317 §

PRETTY barmaid, curvy size 14, loves music, WLTm easygoing male for good times, fun nights in/out and maybe more, 20-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391111 §

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving white male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 377511 §

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 387631

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ADAM 35, attractive, black, seeks lady for no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394339 §

TALL attractive Stoke male, 45, OHAC, dark hair, blue eyes, seeking female for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394191 §

5FT 6ins male, blue eyes, gorgeous, likes a drink, cinema, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392094 §

GOOD looking male, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392092

55YR old male, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, loyal, likes keep fit, seeks special female to light my fire. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393333 §

35YR old down to earth, seeking female, 20-35 for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393299

HONEST kind, caring male, 50, own home/business, 6ft, medium build, GSOH, looking for female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391353 §

PROFESSIONAL male, 5ft 10ins, slim, tanned, attractive, seeks nice lady for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392929

HONEST kind, caring male, 50, own home/business, 6ft, medium build, GSOH, looking for female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391353 §

DON 6ft, semi-retired businessman, varied interests, animals, holidays, seeks music, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391590 §

GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394159 §

SEAN 45, caring, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394149 §

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394103 §

AL 5ft 10ins, average build, dark hair, blue/green eyes, 34, marine engineer, seeking discreet fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393995 §

45YR old male, average build, GSOH, likes country walks, meals out, don't be shy, now reply. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393137 §

HONEST loyal male, 64, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393759 §

MATTHEW 5ft 3ins, medium build, good body, seeking fit female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393743

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeks big beautiful woman for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393737 §

MALE 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393559

DAVE 47, well built, divorced, 2 children, WLTm lady of similar age for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393789 §

MALE 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392645 §

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392769 §

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392665 §

RICHARD 5ft 6ins, blue eyes, mousey hair, seeking female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391734 §

CHRIS 30, 5ft 9ins, slim, brown hair, likes nights in/out, movies, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391724 §

64YR old slim male, 6ft, hazel eyes, likes gardening, cooking, DIY, walks, meals out, nights in, seeks lady 56-60 with GSOH for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392523 §

GAY SINGLES

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MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391626 §

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391849 §

BOOKS

Summer paperbacks for younger readers

THE PURSUIT of a butterfly in an Australian office block literally triggers the 'Butterfly Effect' of unforeseen profound consequences around the planet in Matt Dickinson's Deep Oblivion (Oxford University Press, teenage).

The invisible connections influence the life and death struggles of people across the globe in a similar fast-paced adventure to his thriller *Mortal Chao*.

New queen of teen Maureen Johnson's US school satire sees Jane try to rescue her best friend from a deal with the devil at their Catholic girls' school in *Devilish* (Harper Collins, 13 plus).

Laugh-out-loud funny with lots of slapstick as student Taullulah Casey pursues the perfect snog. **A Midsummer Tights Dream** (Harper Collins, 12 plus) is Louise Rennison's sequel to *Withering Tights*. It's from the same author who penned *Angus Thongs and Perfect Snogging*.

boy. The other four books in the series, which began in 2005, are being republished.

Gothic

Stormswept (Harper Collins, nine plus) is the latest novel in Cornish writer Helen Dunmore's *Ingo* Chronicles series, but this stand-alone title is accessible to those so far unaware of her environment-conscious books about the overlap between human and Mer people worlds.

Instead of a crab or broken surfboard washed up on the beach, Morveren discovers a teenage boy half-buried in the sand but he's no ordinary boy. Teenage fans of gothic romance will want to find out what happens to Amelia, the ghostly heroine of Tara Hudson's *Hereafter*, who is still determined on mortal love in the sequel *Arise* (Harper Collins). This time Amelia's search for answers and a more substantial future take her to America's most supernatural city, New Orleans, and the power of voodoo.

Epic space opera **A Confusion of Princes** (Harper Collins, 13 plus) by Garth Nix harks back to the golden days of sci-fi, a

by Leon Burakowski

ramp through a galactic empire. As it's a stand-alone, readers don't have to wade through a library of existing titles to get up to speed with Prince Khemri's world(s).

Japanese and European mythologies influence **The Hidden Kingdom** (Oxford University Press, 12 plus) an epic new fantasy from experienced children's author Ian Beck. A pampered prince has to mature quickly and his female protector face many challenges in a snowy landscape as human armies and demons clash.

Join Esme and Monty Pepper, plus their Uncle Potty and troupe, in the old theatre on the end of the pier for magic and madcap adventures in Sian Patenden's **The Magical Peppers and the Island of Invention** (Harper Collins, nine plus). The twins investigate when magicians disappear.

Teenager Mikey, who suffered brain damage in an accident, uses a gift which he calls "the backwards" to look into the past to try to uncover the truth about his father's disappearance. Sarah Hammond's unusual teen read **The Night Sky In My Head** (Oxford University Press) has been compared with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Oxford University Press have reprinted **The Little Grey Men** by BB, a near forgotten children's novel from the 1940s about a group of gnomes who live beside a Warwickshire brook. When one of their number, Cloudberry, goes missing they set off on a quest to find him. 'BB' was English naturalist Denys Watkins-Pitchford and his love of the countryside and illustrations infuse this slightly old-fashioned but often enchanting fairy tale. A magical garden come true, even a boy's horse racing dream game can help if he's only got a donkey, in **Mr Skip** (Harper Collins, pre-teen), a reprint of an amusing, undemanding read by War Horse author Michael Morpurgo.



It's wicked being popular in Maureen Johnson's supernatural satire



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NEWS

£40,000 appeal to keep coin treasure in county

Friends plan wildlife haven



Keith Ferris, David Tibbetts and John Cutler, from Friends of Kinver Open Spaces, with Gavin Williamson MP, at the former lake

AN eyecore in a village could be transformed into a haven for wildlife under plans by residents.

The Friends of Kinver Open Spaces have unveiled their proposal to reinstate Sterrymere Lake.

The £110,000 plan will see the dried-up lake filled up with water, surrounding scrub cleared and new planting.

Wildlife such as otters, fish and bats would also be introduced. The

lake became empty in the 1950s after the Mill Brook, which fed it, dried out.

Friends of Kinver Open Spaces member and project manager, David Tibbetts, said: "This is about transforming an area of wilderness which is currently an absolute eyecore near the centre of the village."

"Once open I believe it could attract about 5,000 visitors a month."

PEOPLE in Worcestershire are being asked to help keep last year's archaeological find in its home county.

Last October a stash of almost 4,000 Roman coins was discovered by metal detectors in the Vale of Evesham. It was the largest haul of treasure ever found in the Worcestershire.

Research indicates the hoard was buried nearly a century after it was accumulated – the only known such British example, meaning the hoard is of national significance.

Museums Worcestershire is hoping to raise £40,000 to acquire and conserve the coins and then display them at a number of venues in the county. The hoard is held in the British Museum and the county has just four months to raise the money.

More than 3,000 people came to see the hoard at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum and many made clear their support to keep the hoard in the county by offering almost £1,400 in donations.

Philippa Tinsley, of Museums Worcestershire said: "We made a brilliant start to the campaign to keep the hoard in the county last year, and we're hoping residents will show their support and make a donation. Every little will help to keep this wonderful treasure where it belongs."

To support the appeal visit <http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/worcestershire-hoard/> or visit the museum website www.museums Worcestershire.org.uk

People can also donate by texting COIN11 and the amount of money to 70070. For example, COIN11 £5 to donate £5. Alternatively, call at the Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, Foregate Street, Worcester.

Health on the agenda

HEALTH chiefs in Dudley will be at libraries in the Dudley area to listen to patients' views. They will be at Stourbridge library on August 14 and Halesowen library on August 23 from 10am.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Action stations – sky's the limit for fun at air museum

THROUGHOUT August, the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford has created a range of exciting interactive activities that will get families working together and having fun.

Creative workshops will run throughout the month between 11am-12.30pm and 2pm-3.30pm and all materials for these hands-on sessions will be provided by the museum.

Up to tomorrow (Friday) there is an Olympics theme where children are able to make their own medal and foam bookmark. Everyone is a winner with the fun foam medals which come with glitter decorations and ribbon.

The second week of activities between August 13-17 will be dedicated to gliders where children will have the opportunity to make and colour in aeroplanes and butterfly gliders and test how well they fly. These easy-to-assemble gliders come in a variety of designs to choose from.

Spitfire

Families can participate in model making activities from August 20-24. Visitors can build an Airfix 1:72 Spitfire in a communal and fun atmosphere and people don't have to be skilled modellers to take part as staff will be there to lend a hand and ensure visitors get the most from their modelling.

During the last week of August 28-31 the theme will be back to school where children can decorate and personalise a traditional wooden pencil box.

For each of the activities, participants will get to take their creations home as a memento of the day. A trail will also run at weekends and on bank holiday Monday, keeping the children entertained every day throughout August. Children and adults alike will be fascinated by fun 'n' flight – a free interactive area is packed with hands on excitement; it's the easy way to answer



Spitfire model making is one choice from the August programme

all those questions about how planes stay up in the air.

A small participation fee applies for each of the activities to cover the costs of materials. To participate in the events this August, tickets must be purchased from the admissions desk on arrival.

For further information on August Activities and other events taking place at the RAF Museum, near Altringham, contact 01902 376200 or visit the www.rafmuseum.org website. The museum is open daily from 10am – 6pm. Entry to the museum is free. There is a parking charge.

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Dream time for young

TWO youngsters had their dreams come true after battling back from a hospital stay thanks to a children's charity.

Abigail Dunn and Carrie-Louise Johnson both received treatment at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital when they were visited by Wishing Well volunteers.

Straits Primary School pupil Abigail, aged 11, who lives in Lower Gornal got to spend a day at the Build a Bear shop at Merry Hill.

Meanwhile, Carrie-Louise Johnson, 16, had her wish granted to become a barrister for the day at St Philips Chambers in Birmingham.

Exchange homes plan

MORE than 40 homes could be built on the site of Kidderminster's former telephone exchange, under new plans lodged with council bosses.

The building in Blackwell Street stands on the same spot where Sir Rowland Hill, creator of the Penny Post, was born.

For many years developers have mooted proposals to transform the site but none of the schemes have got off the ground.

But now Blue Square Kidderminster Ltd has submitted new plans to convert and extend the building to create 42 apartments. The firm says in the planning application, the

exchange, which has been closed for more than a decade, had been targeted by vandals.

In 2007 the building was destroyed by fire.

The developer wants to give the rundown building a facelift and retain the historical front which dates back to the 1930s.

Cycle

The complex would offer one and two bedroom apartments as well as studio flats. It would have around 30 off-street car parking spaces and cycle racks.

Emma Evans, from agents Alliance Planning, said: "The proposed conversion will bring back into

use an important building within the centre of Kidderminster."

The plans have been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council and a decision is expected to be made within the next two months.

The exchange building was bought by the applicant in 2006. Neighbouring businesses and organisations including the council's conservation officer are being consulted on the scheme.

Sir Rowland Hill was born in Blackwell Street in 1795 but the house where he lived was demolished in 1930 to make way for the telephone exchange, which was eventually constructed during 1934.

Council among best at tax collection efficiency

DUDLEY and Sandwell councils are among the best in the country at raking in tax due from local ratepayers.

Both Sandwell and Dudley collected 98.2 per cent of the council taxes levied on borough taxpayers last year.

Wolverhampton was close behind, with 96 per cent of council tax owed collected during 2011-12. In Walsall more than 97 per cent of the amount due from borough taxpayers was collected, with more money recovered since as the council continues to chase outstanding debts.

Dudley's cabinet member for finance, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "Our high council tax collection rate places us joint second of all metropolitan councils, which benefits everyone by reducing administra-

tion costs and ensuring the council's spending programmes are properly funded."

But he said the council recognised the difficulties that hard-pressed residents and businesses were currently facing - so, from next April, they will be able to spread their payments over 12 months instead of the existing 10 months.

Councillor Lowe said that, despite the difficult economic climate, Dudley's high level of collection was on a par with that of previous years and was much better than the average for metropolitan councils.

"We really appreciate the excellent payment record of most of Dudley's council tax and business rates payers, especially given the tough financial situation in which we find ourselves," he added.

Venue raises cash for injured heroes



Front from left Troop Aid chairman Al Sutton with Help for Heroes co-ordinator Ken Cook. Centre from left, Michaela Hickman, Mayor Melvyn Mottram and Lesley Willetts. Back from left, veterans Billy Cooper, Jack Baker, and Bernard Guest

A RESTAURANT and function room has raised more than £1,000 to be split between two charities which support soldiers injured in the line of duty.

Staff from The Brambles, Priory Road, Dudley, have handed over £510 to both Help for Heroes and Troop Aid following a fundraising evening.

The event, in April, was attended by more than 100 people with cash being raised through tickets and raffles.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram visited staff at the venue to collect the donations. Ex-servicemen were also there for the event. It was organised by Lesley Willetts, who runs the venue, and functions manager Michaela Hickman.

Lesley said: "We were delighted to be able to raise this amount of money for both of the charities."

"Some of these soldiers return from duty with injuries which we can just not imagine. They have been fighting on the frontline for us. It is important we support them in whatever way we can."

Council staff to play football for charities

SPORTY councillors and staff from Dudley Council will be looking to net plenty of cash for charity when they compete in a football event.

Elected members will take on council officers during a six-a-side tournament at Redhill School in Stourbridge on August 28.

The event, which will run from 6 to 8pm, is open to the public and will also include a women's match and games and activities from West Bromwich Albion's community programme The Albion Foundation. All money raised on the evening will go to the mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram's chosen charities - Diabetes UK Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group and Dudley Stroke Association.

Councillor Mottram said: "This football event promises to be a fun evening of sport while helping to raise more valuable funds for charity."

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NEWS

Families help to build a play trail

KINVER Edge is a hive of activity as National Trust staff and volunteers build a natural play trail there.

The trail has been designed by children from Brindley Heath Junior School in Kinver and St Mary's Primary School, Kingswinford.

It will include a storytelling area, with a giant storytelling chair, a den building area and a more adventurous play area with hurdles, a seesaw and balance bars.

Every Wednesday in August families can come along and work as volunteers to help to build the trail.

The sessions are 10-noon and 1-3pm each Wednesday, they are free.

Anyone interested can book a place by contacting Laura Broadhurst on 07920181605 or emailing laura.broadhurst@nationaltrust.org.uk

Ranger Edwin Blunt, Ranger said: "We're really excited about the new trail. The kids have come up with some fantastic designs and these volunteering days are a great opportunity for people to get involved."

The play trail is due to be opened on September 15.

Quilt festival

MORE than 30,000 people are due to attend the popular Festival of Quilts event at the NEC, Birmingham, from August 16 to 19.

Engineering firm helping to unlock secrets of the universe

A BLACK COUNTRY firm has helped supply parts for research delving into the history of the universe.

TM Engineers secured a £750,000 deal to build part of the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland. Scientists operating the 38,000-ton machine won international acclaim when they announced the discovery of the Higgs boson, known as the "God particle".

It is hoped the discovery will help scientists unlock mysteries of the universe.

Workers at the Kingswinford firm developed parts which help capture atoms as they are sent careering around the 16-mile underground structure.

The 13ft-wide aluminium parts, called E-Cal End Plates, were sent in two sets to Geneva.

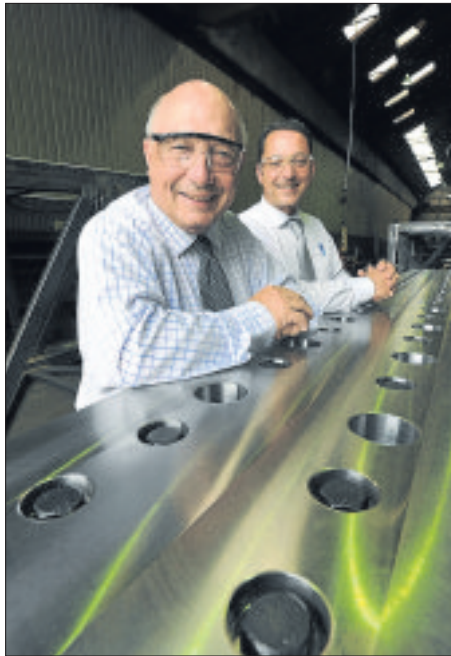
Components

They took six months to develop due to the complicated manufacturing process. A carbon fibre "shroud" and lead blocks were attached to holes on the plates to catch the atoms.

The firm which has 55 staff was founded more than 60 years ago. It is one of only 10 firms worldwide to be awarded special gold plaques from Geneva for its work on the Large Hadron Collider.

The LHC produces tiny patches of high energy by forcing atomic particles travelling at very high speed, to collide.

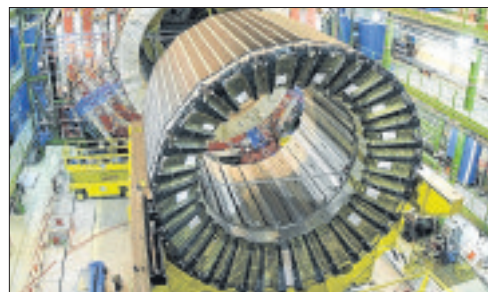
TM Engineers sales manager Richard Holland said: "We are enormously proud of the fact that we have created one of the most critical engineering components in history that is going to help find the answer to how we were all made."



Father and son, Bob and Richard Holland of TM Engineers



Firm's workers develop a track to supply fuel to a nuclear submarine reactor



The world's largest superconducting solenoid magnet at the LHC

Quarry is guarded after boy drowns

SECURITY staff are guarding a disused quarry 24 hours a day after a 15-year-old boy drowned there.

Augusto Zacarias died after falling into the Blue Lagoon waters at the Marl Hole pool near the Crooked House pub in Himley.

The budding footballer, who was on holiday from Portugal, was described by his family as their "pride and joy".

Site owner Wienerberger has stepped up security and spokeswoman Heather Butler said: "There is 24-hour security at the site and we are working closely with the police."

Bosses say the quarry is surrounded by a 6ft-high chain link fence topped with barbed wire, all gates are locked and that there are warning signs and regular inspections.

Augusto was visiting family from Portugal with his parents, Paulina and Pedro, as well as his young brother, and had been in the country less than three weeks.

He had only just celebrated his 15th birthday.

Gaming date

DIGITAL gaming fans can take part in an interactive session on The Giant Screen at Millennium Point in Birmingham on August 21.

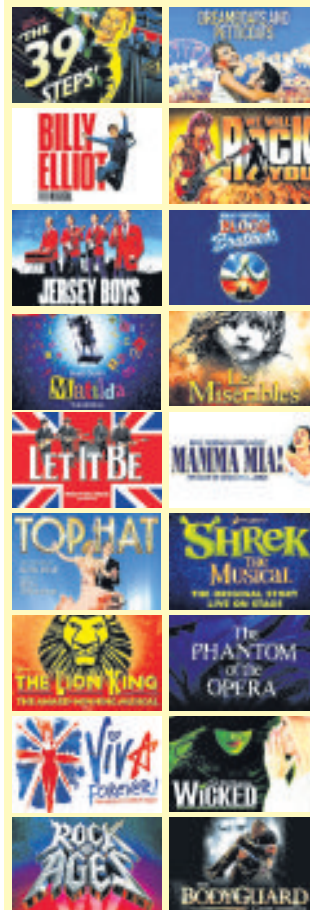
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*the "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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CLUB NEWS

Armchair tour starts off in jail

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

FOLLOWING the AGM, MyTime Over Fifties commenced its new programme of meetings with Sandy Cole, from Worcester Walks, giving an "armchair tour" of Georgian Worcester.

Sandy greeted everyone wearing Georgian costume and began her talk with a brief picture of Worcester in the 18th century.

The armchair tour started at jail, in Castle Street. The 190 cells were empty during the First World War as pardons were given to anyone who joined up. Next was Worcester Guild Hall, built by Thomas White, apprentice to Christopher Wren. This was used as a court and has holding cells.

Next up was the Countess of Huntingdon Hall, once a Methodist Chapel, saved from demolition and now a concert hall.

Other buildings shown included the site of the first building where Lea and Perrins made their Worcester sauce, the Hop Pole Hotel, Star Hotel and the Berkley Almshouses dating from 1703. The birthplace of Hannah Snell is still to be seen. Disguised as a man, in 1747, she joined the Royal Marines, fought in India, and was the first woman soldier to be a Chelsea Pensioner.

MyTime Over Fifties meet in the Amblectore Room in Stourbridge Town Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

Federation banner is carried by secretary



Secretary Wendy Brown carries the Guild banner at the South Staffs Federation AGM

WEDNESBURY TOWNSWOMEN

SECRETARY Wendy Brown had the honour of carrying the South Staffs Federation banner at the Townswomen's Guilds Annual General Meeting at the ICC, Birmingham.

It was chaired by national chairman Pauline Myers with speakers being national vice president Esther Rantzen and Eric Knowles. The meeting concluded with a rendition by the ladies of Rule Britannia and the TG anthem, I am a Small Part of the World.

Wednesbury members were entertained by husband and wife team John and Annette Christophers of Albrighton Pottery. Annette is also a talented watercolour artist.

The guild accepted an invitation to have a stall at a music festival at Wednesbury Rugby Club in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital. The guild made a donation.

The annual afternoon tea takes place at 2pm on August 13, at The Baptist Church, Vicar Street.

Hats talk was fascinating

THE July meeting was a truly feminine event.

Mrs Catherine Clarke brought in a fantastic selection of designer hats and fascinators from her hat hire business in Blakedown.

She modelled each one and gave useful tips on the type and design that best complements a person's build and personal features. Catherine had a range of dis-

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

tinctive matching clutch handbags that can complete the outfit.

She also had a collection of hats, donated to her, ranging from the 1920s, which are very popular for themed

parties. Ann Cooper gave a vote of thanks.

Ena Baker, Iris Ferreday and Janet Yates won the raffle. The chairman reported that events at The Whittington Inn and Val's afternoon tea party had been a success.

The next meeting will be the Harvest Supper and auction, held at the British Legion, on September 6.

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Low Back Pain & Pilates Workshop Tuesday
28th August 2012 6.30-8.30pm £20 per person.
This workshop is suitable for those with chronic low back pain. It will look at the fears surrounding back pain and exercise and address these by looking at exercises that are safe and effective. Venue The Oaks Community Hall, Worcester Road, Harvington Nr Kidderminster.

Pilates & Osteoporosis Workshop Thursday
30th August 2012 9.00-11.00am £20 per person.
This workshop is suitable for those who have been diagnosed with osteopenia or osteoporosis or those of you who would like to use appropriate exercise to aid the prevention of osteoporosis. It will look at what osteopenia and osteoporosis are together with effective and safe exercises. Venue The Oaks Community Hall, Worcester Road, Harvington Nr Kidderminster.

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Advertisement Feature

Ladies, learn to de-stress with A Hobby

You may find it hard to believe but hobbies for women are part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Perhaps you are thinking to yourself that life is far too hectic and busy to try to squeeze in another thing on your 'to-do' list. Sit back and look at how much time you really devote to yourself and how much time you give to working and family obligations. You can suddenly realise that maybe looking into hobbies for women is not such a bad idea.

There is no set rule as to when you can pick up a hobby. In fact, many hobbies aren't really tapped into until a woman reaches her 'retirement' age. This is most likely because women feel they do not have time to spend. A hobby can be something you start as a child and pick up later down the road. You may even stumble upon a new hobby you like during a hobby you already enjoy. What is important to remember in regards to hobbies for women is to find something you truly love.

Why Hobbies are Important

Have you noticed that you are easily frazzled these days? Are you beginning to snap at the kids and at your husband? Do you feel like you never see your friends anymore? Perhaps this is the time to take a reality check and prioritise your life. Women usually assume the role of caregiver in the home. Whether you work full-time or not, a woman ends up running the household, taking care of crisis with the kids, doing laundry, buying groceries and the list can go on. Can you say you take time out of your busy life to enjoy a craft or hobby of some sort? Hobbies for women are important for several reasons.

The first reason a hobby is beneficial is that it allows a woman the chance to relieve stress and revitalise the mind and body. By taking an hour or less for yourself, you can find a way to clear your mind of all the responsibilities you have on your shoulders.



What's On!

Centre has fun events on way

BARNARDO'S Riverside Children's Centre in Stourport Road, Bewdley has the following special events coming up:

August 14, 2-3pm, music session for under-fives. Daniel plays guitar and sings songs we all know, so grab an instrument and join in!

August 30, 11-1, meet at Wyre Forest visitor centre for a walk and a picnic - bring a picnic.

Special events every week include family fun at Bewdley museum, sports days, a summer trip to Hatton Park Farm, and family fun days.

For more information call the centre on 01299 409169.

Adventure to be brought to life

BLUNDERBUS Theatre presents the Selfish Crocodile at Kidderminster Town Hall on Saturday.

The story is based on the best-selling picture book by Faustin Charles and Mike Terry.

Storytellers will use song, music and puppets to bring the adventure to life. It will run from 2.30pm until 3.30pm. Tickets are £4 or £14 for a family ticket. Call 01562 732984.

Park music

THERE'S Irish and folk music at Kidderminster's Brinton Park on Sunday with De Kelten performing between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Entrance is free. Bring a picnic.

Vintage comedy Dandy Dick aims to be a West End winner

ACTRESS Patricia Hodge - now best known as mother of Miranda in the hit TV comedy series - stars with Nicholas Le Prevost in a revival of Victorian comedy **Dandy Dick**, which is coming to Birmingham before heading for London's West End.

National Theatre actor Le Prevost plays a highly respectable clergyman torn between his horror of gambling and a huge bill for church restoration. This is his dilemma

Rotten fresh

Pil, Wulfrun Hall
IF anger is an energy, as John Lydon sings on Rise, then it still fuels the former Johnny Rotten.

Spiky haired and prickly by nature, Lydon risked self-out allegations via TV adverts for butter to fund the latest album by Pil, the band he founded after the demise of the Sex Pistols more than 30 years ago.

The blend of Lydon's declamatory vocals with Lu Edmonds' cascading guitar (and banjo!) plus dub grooves was formidable in this two hour show, and Lydon especially fierce on Religion. No nostalgia here with The Flowers of Romance sounding fresh and new songs like One Drop fitting right in. Best of all, he still means it, maaaan!

Leon Burakowski

when his racy widowed sister Georgiana (Hodge) offers him a hot tip on her horse Dandy Dick.

Meanwhile, the Very Reverend Augustin Jedd's two daughters are plotting how they can escape the family home without a chaperone to be wooed by a couple of army officers.

Farce

This light farce and comedy of manners set in a Victorian drawing-room was a success in its day for playwright Arthur Wing Pinero, who was once as popular as Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw. Its last major revival was in 1987.

Adapted and directed by Christopher Luscombe, **Dandy Dick** will be staged at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from August 21 to 25.

Call the box office on 0844 871 3011.



A scene from **Dandy Dick** featuring Nicholas Le Prevost and Patricia Hodge

Bolly good Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing, Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE Bard goes Bollywood in Iqbal Khan's vibrant version of Shakespeare's play.

After the RSC's African Julius Caesar, the World Shakespeare Festival continues with **Much Ado** switched from medieval Sicily to modern India - Shakespeare with a bhangra beat.

Staffordshire actress Meera Syal is in fine form as Beatrice, her humour laced with melancholy. Sparks fly when she meets her match in Benedick, played by Paul Bhattacharjee.

There is a dark undercurrent in how her cousin suffers for apparently bringing shame upon the family when jilted on her wedding day.

There is fun from Anjana Vasan as a put-upon maid and Simon Nagra as a word-jumbling constable.

Much Ado is at Stratford until September 15.

Leon Burakowski

Animal magic for youngsters

LOCAL nature reserves are hosting events for youngsters in the coming weeks.

At Saltwells nature reserve, Brierley Hill, on August 8, visitors can join a search for insects and small mammals. It will be held from 10-11am and 1-2pm. The event will be repeated on August 29 at the same times.

On August 15 and 22 youngsters can get creative with natural clay and create their very own tree spirits.

Visitors to Cotwall End Valley nature reserve, in Gornal Wood will also get the chance to search for insects and small wildlife on August 11 from 2pm to 4pm.

Orchestra opens countryside event

FAR Forest Countryside Show is on Sunday at the Callow Hill Showground.

Members of Bewdley Concert Orchestra will open the event.

There will be cookery demonstrations, crafts stalls, vintage funfair rides and displays including a dog team. In the lower field there will be a display of classic and vintage engines and vehicles.

Puppets show

A PUPPET production by Mimika Theatre called **Small Worlds** aimed at five to 11-year-olds and their families is on Wednesday at Kidderminster Town Hall. Call 01562 732984.

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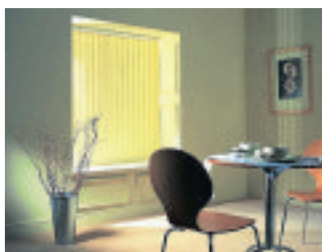
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What's On!

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CHOICE



Gary Lineker

Olympics 2012 BBC1, 7.15pm
Gary Lineker presents the concluding evening of sport in the Games, with an exciting night of action in store on the track and at the Aquatics Centre. At the Olympic Stadium, Mo Farah is expected to be in the running for gold in the 5,000m. Farah won this event at last year's World Championships in Daegu and will be determined to give the British fans something to cheer about after their support for Team GB throughout the three weeks. However, the east African contingent will be doing its best to ensure he does not have things all his own way.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. Chris Hollins and Sian Williams present a round-up of national and international news, and a look ahead to the day's events in the Olympic Games. **9.00** Olympics 2012. Mishal Husain and Rishi Persad present this morning's opening coverage on the penultimate day of the Games, featuring the concluding canoe sprint finals, and men's diving. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Olympics 2012. The women's mountain bike cross-country final. **2.30** Olympics 2012. The men's football final (Kick-off 3.00pm). Jake Humphrey is at Wembley Stadium to present this afternoon's fixture, as the successors to Argentina will be decided. **5.15** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Olympics 2012. The conclusion of the men's modern pentathlon. **7.15** Olympics 2012. Gary Lineker introduces the concluding evening of athletics coverage at the Olympic Stadium, and the final of the men's 10m platform diving competition at the Aquatics Centre. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Jenni Falconer presents as the balls are set rolling to decide the all-important numbers. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **10.40** Olympics Tonight. Gabby Logan and guests look back on the penultimate day's events at the London Games, and preview tomorrow's final day. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. Dan Walker looks back at the 15th day's events. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.55** Animal Park. (R) **12.55** Film: The Journey of Natty Fann (1985) Disney adventure, starring John Cusack and Meredith Salenger. **2.30** Film: The Quick Gun. (1964) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Antiques Road Trip. (R) **5.30** Entertaining the Troops. **6.30** **Flog III** The team heads to Nantwich, Cheshire, where items of interest include pottery and Aboriginal art, and Paul Martin takes a guided tour of the Moorcroft factory. (R) **7.30** **Dad's Army**. Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R) **8.00** **BBC Proms 2012**. From the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Halle and conductor Mark Elder celebrate the work of Ivor Novello, with soprano Sophie Bevan and tenor Toby Spence. **9.20** **Film: London - The Modern Babylon**. (2012) Premiere. Film-maker Julien Temple explores London's history from the beginning of the 20th century, revealing the people who have shaped the city over the years. **11.25** **TOTP2**. Mark Radcliffe presents performances by Thin Lizzy, Gotye, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Swing Out Sister, Tight Fit, New Order, Bow Wow Wow and the Rattles; (R) National Lottery Update. **12.25** **Film**: The Last Shot. (2004) Crime comedy, with Matthew Broderick and Alec Baldwin. **1.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.10** Film: Wild Wild West. (1999) Sci-fi Western comedy, starring Will Smith. **3.10** **Film**: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore. **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **Agatha Christie's Marple**. A weekend party at a country house is marred by the discovery of a body in a secret passageway within its walls. Murder mystery, starring Julia McKenzie, with Ruth Jones. (R) **8.00** **Midsomer Murders**. The president of an ornithological society is found dead after an argument about a rare bird sighting. Guest starring Paul Nicholls and James Dreyfus. (R) **10.00** **ITV News**: Weather. **10.15** **Mad Mad World**. David Hasselhoff, Louie Spence and Coleen Nolan join Rufus Hound, Rhys Darby and regular panelist Rob Rouse for the comedy quiz. Presented by Paddy McGuinness. Last in the series. **10.50** **Take Me Out**. A care worker, a student, a publisher and a sales director try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R) **12.00** The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.05** In Plain Sight. (R) **2.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** **FIM** Superbike World Championship 2012. (R) **6.55** British F3. **7.20** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Mandip Sehmi Part III. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Professor Green. (R) **9.15** T4: V Festival: The Countdown. **9.50** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.20** T4: Revenge. **11.20** T4: Suburgatory. **11.55** T4: Summer Daze. **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Danielle Brown Part III. (R) **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.20** **Channel 4 News**. **6.50** **4thought.tv**. Atheist teenager Rhys Morgan claims teachers are under pressure to side with religious students in discussions with non-believers. **6.55** **Film: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button**. (2008) A baby is born with the physique of a geriatric - and over a long and eventful life, grows younger with each passing year. Fantasy drama, starring Brad Pitt. **10.00** **The Million Pound Drop**. With Jedward and cricketers Stuart Broad and James Anderson. Last in the series. **11.50** **Film: A Prophet**. (2009) Premiere. A crook is sent to a French prison dominated by rival Corsican and Muslim gangs, where he forms his own crime syndicate. Crime drama, with Tahar Rahim. **2.35** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **4.10** Happy Endings. **4.30** Countdown. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **11.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.35** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **1.35** **Film**: Sands of the Kalahari. (1965) **3.35** **Film**: Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007) **5.20** **Film**: Avalanche Express. (1979) **7.05** **5 News Weekend**. **7.10** **NCIS**. The body of a Muslim marine is found near a mosque that has been linked to al-Qaeda, but Ducky refuses to perform an autopsy out of respect for the dead man's religion. (R) **8.10** **NCIS**. Gibbs and the team set up a stake-out to catch a thief suspected of selling hi-tech Navy equipment on the black market, but end up witnessing a murder. (R) **9.00** **Big Brother**. The latest highlights, including another chance to see the last normal eviction before the housemates enter the final week and the race to become this year's winner begins. **10.10** **CSI: Miami**. A sinister phone call alerts the team to the existence of a killer who has murdered a prostitute and kidnapped another. Guest starring Ed Begley Jr. **11.05** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**. Nick investigates the death of an accountant and discovers links to his own kidnapping ordeal. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Islands. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
6.00 Olympics 2012 **9.00** Olympics 2012 **2.00** Olympics 2012 **8.00** Olympics 2012
BBC Four
7.00 Africa's Magnificent Beasts: Elsa - The Lioness That Changed the World **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **9.00** Wallander: The Fifth Woman **10.55** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.25** Timeshift: Dear Censor
ITV2
2.35 America's Got Talent: 4.30 America's Got Talent: Results **5.25** **Film**: The Flintstones (1994) **7.15** **Film**: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **9.00** The Xtra Factor Rewind **10.00** **Film**: The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005)
ITV3
6.00 **Film**: Carry On Jack (1963) **7.55** **Film**: City of Angels (1998) Romantic fantasy, starring Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan. **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple
ITV4
2.25 **Film**: Spartacus (1960) **6.15** Live Football. Real Madrid v Celtic (Kick-off 6.30pm). **8.45** Greatest World Cup Matches **9.00** **Film**: Rocky II (1979) Boxing drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. **11.25** **Film**: Child's Play 3 (1991) **E4**
3.05 Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** **Film**: The Waterboy (1998) Sporting comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **Film4**
3.05 King Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Love Story (1970) **7.05** Big Momma's House (2000) **9.00** The Ghost (2010) **11.30** Final Destination 3 (2006)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.08.12

CHOICE



Boris Johnson

Olympics 2012: Closing Ceremony BBC1, 9pm

If the opening ceremony is anything to go by, we're in for a real humdinger when it comes to London 2012's grand finale. Certain aspects appear in each such ceremony, including the symbolic handing over of the Olympic flag to the next host of the summer games, the march of the athletes and the extinguishing of the Olympic flame. But there's also a show involving more than 4,000 volunteers. But it's the big-name performers we're most interested in. Rumour has it that the Spice Girls will reform.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. Chris Hollins and Sian Williams present a round-up of national and international news, and a look ahead to the final day's events in the Olympic Games. **9.00** Olympics 2012. **10.45** BBC News. **10.50** Olympics 2012. Matt Baker and Tanni Grey-Thompson introduce coverage of the men's marathon, which gets under way at 11.00 on the Mail. **1.20** Olympics 2012. Jake Humphrey and Manish Bhasin introduce this afternoon's concluding men's boxing finals at the ExCel London, where the last five divisions are decided. **4.00** Olympics 2012. Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present the conclusion of the women's modern pentathlon at Greenwich Park, where the last medals of London 2012 will be decided. **7.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.30 Olympics 2012. A look back at the London Games, 16 days of high-quality competition at venues around the country, focusing on the achievements of the British squad. **9.00** Olympics 2012: Closing Ceremony. Live coverage of the ceremony to celebrate 16 days of sporting achievement, including the extinguishing of the flame and the handover to 2016 hosts Rio de Janeiro.

11.30 BBC News; Weather. **11.50** Live at the Apollo. Stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

12.35 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore and the team visit amateur astronomers at their home observatories, finding out why they spend their nights stargazing. **12.55** Weatherwise. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **12.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.15** Olympics 2012. The men's mountain bike cross-country final. **3.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.40** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Eisteddfod 2012 with Cerys Matthews. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Coast. (R)

6.00 Oceans. The first of two episodes exploring the Indian Ocean. (R)

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts examine more rarities at Tatton Park in Cheshire, including an inkstand with a link to Admiral Nelson and a precious item lurking in a box of jewellery. (R)

8.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang visit Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, sampling the spices that make its food unique and searching the back streets for authentic dishes and snacks.

9.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World. Justine Evans films a puma's nocturnal hunting behaviour, Gordon Buchanan investigates a mystery in the Magellan Strait and George McGavin tracks a vampire bat. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: *Glorious 39*. (2009) An actress becomes suspicious of a friend's suicide and uncovers a sinister government plot to avert war with Germany at all costs. Steven Poliakoff's period thriller, starring Romola Garai and Bill Nighy.

12.05 Film: *Sirens*. (1994) **1.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Grimefighters. (R) **1.00** The Community Shield Live. Manchester City v Chelsea (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.50** Film: *Escape to Victory*. (1981) Second World War adventure, starring Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone.

6.00 You've Been Framed! A selection of camcorder calamities, including a beatboxing baby and an attack by cherry tomatoes. Narrated by Harry Hill. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot. The detective's friend (guest star Martin Shaw) hosts a cocktail party in Cornwall, where a priest chokes to death - and weeks later another guest dies in similar circumstances. (R)

9.00 A Touch of Frost. Part two of two. Mullett becomes convinced Frost's life is in danger as they investigate a series of copycat murders. David Jason and Bruce Alexander star. (R)

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 The Community Shield Highlights. Manchester City v Chelsea. Matt Smith presents action from the traditional curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, held at Villa Park.

12.20 The Briefs. (R) **1.15** The Store. Home shopping. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Golden Balls. (R) **3.50** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of the cycling events. **6.35** Outlaw Triathlon. **7.30** Surfing Special: The Endless Winter. **7.55** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Hannah Cockcroft Part III. (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Fraser. (R) **9.25** Fraser. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: *Nine Months*. (1995) **4.20** Film: *Entrapment*. (1999)

6.25 Deal or No Deal. Noel Edmonds hosts the game show in which contestants try to guess the values of mystery boxes.

7.25 Channel 4 News.

7.55 *Thought.tv*. A Muslim student discusses religious education.

8.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants compete to win the £1,000 cash prize in Enfield, north London, and two of them are soon vying to be the centre of attention.

9.00 Thelma's Gypsy Girls. The trainees design dresses for their own catwalk show and visit a fashion museum for inspiration, but two of them decide to leave the course early. Last in the series.

10.25 Film: *Wedding Crashers*. (2005) Two party-mad bachelors who gatecrash weddings to pick up women find their lives become complicated when one of them falls in love. Comedy, with Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn.

12.45 Film: *Norwegian Wood*. (2010) **3.00** Perfect. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Big Brother. (R) **12.25** Film: *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*. (2005) **2.10** Film: *Tinker Bell and the Great Fairy Rescue*. (2008) **3.10** Film: *The Karate Kid Part II*. (1986) **5.50** Film: *The Goonies*. (1985)

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. August's real identity is revealed.

9.00 Big Brother. The last daily round-up of highlights before tomorrow's final, as the remaining housemates focus their eyes on the main prize having survived 10 weeks at Big Brother's pleasure.

10.00 Film: *Cradle 2 the Grave*. (2003) Action thriller, with Jet Li, DMX and Mark Dacascos.

12.05 America's Toughest Prisons. (R) **1.05** SuperCano. **4.00** Sons of Anarchy. **4.45** Rough Guide to Adventure. (R) **5.00** Hansa's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear USA Road Trip **8.10** Film: *War of the Worlds* (2005)
10.00 Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Olympics' Most Amazing Moments

BBC Four
7.00 Pop Go the Sixties **7.05** Himalaya with Michael Palin **8.05** Reputations **9.00** Frankie Howard **10.00** Parkinson **10.55** Omnibus: Gore Vidal's Gore Vidal **11.25** Wilderness Explored

ITV2
3.00 The Xtra Factor: Kelly's Best and Worst **4.00** The Xtra Factor: Tulisa's Best and Worst **5.00** The Xtra Factor: Gary's Best and Worst **6.00** The Xtra Factor: Revind **7.00** Film: *Land of the Lost* (2009) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.30** Film: *Analyze This* (1999)

ITV3
3.45 Film: *City of Angels* (1998) **5.35** Film: *Arthur* (2002) **7.00** The Rock (1988) **8.00** Forensic Casebook with Matthew Kelly **9.00** Film: *The Birds* (1963) **11.25** Cracker

ITV4
11.00 British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed 2012 **7.00** Film: *The Far Country* (1964) **9.00** Film: *Jaws* (1975) **11.35** Film: *Death Wish 2* (1981)

E4
3.15 Charlie's Angels **4.15** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.10** Revenge **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: *Fantastic Four* (2005) **10.05** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl

Film4
2.35 Holy Man (1998) **4.50** Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Top Gun (1986) **11.10** Inglourious Basterds (2009)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Channel 5, 11.25pm

A velvet-clad, sex-crazed secret agent from the 1960s agrees to be put into a state of suspended animation after his arch-enemy escapes justice. Thirty years later he is defrosted to do battle with the power-mad villain again, but the mission proves nearly as daunting for him as getting to grips with 1990s social values. Spoof spy adventure, with Mike Myers. (1997)

TUESDAY

The Specialist, ITV1, 10.35pm

An explosives expert is reluctantly persuaded out of retirement by the charms of a vengeful woman bent on destroying the gang that murdered her parents in cold blood. He carries out a series of assassinations with expert precision but finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse when it is revealed a target has hired a former colleague to track him down. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone, James Woods, Rod Steiger and Eric Roberts. (1994)



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Invisible, BBC1, 12.15am

A teenager is attacked and left for dead in the woods, where he finds himself caught in a state between life and death, and invisible to everyone around him. As he observes the investigation into his disappearance, he realises that his only hope of returning to the land of the living is to persuade his assailant to confess. Thriller, starring Justin Chatwin, Marcia Gay Harden, Margarita Levieva and Christopher Marquette. (2007)

THURSDAY

Cheating Fate, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A woman renovating an old house discovers a magical antique music box, and finds that every time it is opened the events of the past seem altered. She continually uses the box in the hope of reversing the tragedy of her husband and daughter's death, but in the process risks losing everything that matters to her. Fantasy thriller, with Brooke Burns. (2007)

FRIDAY

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, BBC2, 9pm

Bruno, a young boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods near the camp's fence, he meets a Jewish boy being held there, and the two youngsters become friends. But Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's horrific true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis, Asa Butterfield and Jack Scanlon. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Love triangle leads to a crime of passion

Yes, it boasts a tremendous cast, the episodes are all written or co-written by the acclaimed Jimmy McGovern, and it explores how ordinary people can find themselves standing in the dock, on trial for the most horrifying crimes. But for many people, the real draw of the second series of **Accused (Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm)** is the chance to see Sean Bean in drag.

Luckily, the BBC isn't going to make us wait, as he stars in the first of the six stand-alone dramas, playing college teacher Simon Gaskell, who leads an intriguing double life. In the evenings, he is a transvestite called Tracie Tremarco, who does the rounds of Manchester's bars looking for love.

Bean admits he didn't immediately jump at the chance to put on his stilettoes. "I had a call from my agent saying, 'Do you fancy playing a transvestite?' I said, 'Not really, why?'"

"But as soon as she said it was a Jimmy McGovern project, who I've wanted to work with for a while, I was interested."

Even once he'd accepted the role, there were challenges in store.

"There I am, a big bloke, it's a week before filming and I'm practising walking in high heels round my house. It felt like I was on stilts. I thought this hurts. I'll never stop hobbling. I need to be able to get my balance and posture right. My sympathies go out to women now. I understand what they go through!"

"Mind you, I can say I've really got the hang of heels now, I don't think they're that bad. I can dance in them too."

But he's keen to point out that there's more to the opening episode of **Accused** than the chance to see one of Britain's most successful – and most rugged – actors as we've never seen him before.

"The script was brilliant, and very moving. It's a really touching story about a complicated man. He has a relationship with another man, which develops into deep love, and then spirals out of control into something quite dark and disturbing."

The trouble starts when Tracie meets Tony (Stephen Graham), a

satellite and aerial engineer who rescues her from an altercation with a group of blokes on a slag night. Love begins to blossom, but Tony has a secret of his own – he's married to beautician Karen (Rachel Leskovac), and while he's smitten with Tracie, he does still care about his wife.

"The result is a love triangle that points to a terrible crime of passion."

Bean says: "It's not about sex; it's about falling in love. In Tracie's case it's with the wrong person, which is something everyone can relate to whatever their preferences are."

But while things look set to end badly for Tracie and Tony, the actor had a much more positive time.

"The experience of being Tracie was great fun and really liberating. I've not had an adrenalin rush like it for ages..."

"This role has been a great opportunity. It's one of the most challenging parts I've ever done; it's so far from my perceived image. I can't think of anything that compares. I can't top it."



Stephen Graham and Sean Bean star in **Accused**, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Escape from Colditz, Channel 4, 9pm

Several episodes of the acclaimed 1970s TV series **Colditz** featured Jeremy Kemp as an academic-turned-pilot obsessed with the idea of building and then flying a glider out of the PoW camp. The true story of that audacious bid is charted in this fascinating documentary. By the time the glider was ready to fly, the conflict was almost over, so it was never used – and nobody is sure it would have worked anyway. However, Cambridge engineer Dr Hugh Hunt is determined to find out whether anybody could have made good a getaway using this method, and decides to test it out with help from various aeronautics engineers and carpenters, who rebuild the glider using the same materials the inmates had at their disposal.

Ruth Rendell's Thirteen Steps Down, ITV1, 9pm

By day, Mix Cellini (Luke Treadaway) seems like a fairly average young man, albeit one with an unusual name and a sideline in offering his sexual services to rich, bored women. But by night he's consumed with his twin obsessions – the infamous serial killer of the 1940s and 1950s, Reginald Christie, and the supermodel Nerissa Nash (Eilarica Gallacher). With that premise, you don't need to know that this drama is based on a novel by crime queen Ruth Rendell to guess it's going to end very badly indeed. When Mix's girlfriend dares to criticise Nerissa, it causes his obsessions to collide in dangerous fashion.

TUESDAY

Emmerdale, ITV1, 7pm

Uprooting your entire life to move to the other side of the world, where you'll be stuck playing gooseberry to your best mate and his new bride (who also happens to be your ex) isn't everyone's idea of an exciting fresh start. Yet Rhona and Paddy have somehow convinced themselves that Marlon must have an ulterior motive for wanting to stay in Emmerdale, and now they think they know what it is – Laurel. Paddy confronts his friend, demanding to know why he didn't tell him about the relationship, and when Marlon makes it clear he and Laurel aren't yet ready to go public, the vet sees a chance for a spot of blackmail.

WEDNESDAY

Live International Football, ITV1, 7.30pm

England face the might of Italy once again in a friendly encounter at the Stade de Suisse Wankdorf in Berne, Switzerland. The sides met as recently as June, when Roy Hodgson's men suffered penalty shootout heartbreak at the hands (or possibly the feet) of the Italians in the quarter-finals of Euro 2012. Despite a courageous defensive display from the English, Cesare Prandelli's men were the dominant side for much of the match and will perhaps enter this contest as slight favourites.

The Flowerpot Gang, BBC1, 8pm

Anneka Rice, Phil Tufnell and Joe Swift host this new, four-part series, which can perhaps be best described as *Ground Force* for a new generation – although there's no news yet on whether that much-missed show's trademark brass band soundtrack will be making a return. The *Flowerpot Gang* will see Anneka, Phil and Joe journey across the country, transforming neglected plots of land into life-changing spaces as they go. Their first stop is Woodland View, a nursing home on the outskirts of Sheffield. Its garden should provide a haven for the home's 60 residents, who have various forms of dementia, but the paths are too dangerous, so it's out of bounds. But now, all that's about to change.

THURSDAY

Peter Kay Live: The Tour That Didn't Tour – Tour, Channel 4, 9pm

The idea of booking tickets for a comedy gig two years in advance is unheard of for many, but Peter Kay is no ordinary comedian. His success on the circuit has been unparalleled, so when he announced his *Tour That Wouldn't Tour*, his first for seven years, fans responded in their masses for the gigs at Manchester Arena. The result was documented in

a best-selling DVD, and now here's a chance to see some of the rib-tickling highlights. Okay, you may have already paid to view much of this, but there are some added extras here that weren't included on the DVD.

FRIDAY

Celebrity MasterChef, BBC2, 6.30pm

As the remaining contestants hope they can stand the heat and make it to a place in the final eight, the famous oven jockeys are challenged to produce a lip-smacking two-course meal to be judged by two past champions – Lisa Faulkner and Phil Vickery – and previous finalist Andi Peters. It remains to be seen who gets through this stage of the competition, but we comfortably predict it will lead to a serious spot of fridge raiding from viewers around the UK. As ever, John Torode and Gregg Wallace will be judging.

Corrie Goes to Kenya, ITV1, 9pm

Sue Cleaver, Ryan Thomas, Brooke Vincent and Ben Price may be four of *Coronation Street*'s best-loved actors, but entertaining millions each week from the relatively cosy sets of Manchester was light years away from one of their greatest acting challenges. Earlier this year, they joined forces with the charity SAFE to use performing arts to educate people on the dangers of HIV and drug abuse. In the first of two-part series we see how the thespians better known as Eileen, Jason, Sophie and Nick use their *Coronation Street* storyline experience as a way of spreading the word about the dangers of two of the world's biggest killers. This first episode sees the quartet arrive at Mombasa's biggest slum.

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Kia registers three wins at prestigious design awards

KIA HAS won three design awards in the Automotive Brand Contest 2012, the latest of a series of honours for the Korean brand's design team headed by Chief Design Officer, Peter Schreyer.

The new Kia cee'd – launched in June – triumphed in the exterior category and also received an honorary special mention for exceptional innovation in the interior category.

In addition, the high profile jury selected the Kia GT as the winner of the concept award. The rear-wheel drive sports sedan design study celebrated its world premiere in September 2011 at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

The Automotive Brand Contest, which

was held for the first time in 2011, has become an internationally recognised competition. It is open to car manufacturers, automotive parts suppliers and companies delivering design and brand communications services to the automotive industry. There are a total of 16 awards categories, covering vehicle design, parts and accessories, technology, digital, branding and events activities.

Styling

This year's two Kia award winners are key models for the brand. The second generation of the cee'd, Kia's best-selling model in Europe, features styling found on a sporty coupe, but offers the space and functionality of a five-door hatch.

Its upmarket exterior design boasts a chrome-framed glasshouse and muscular lines on the bonnet, complemented inside

by an ergonomic, driver-oriented control panel and refined interior, all backed by Kia's industry-leading seven year warranty.

The Kia GT design study was inspired by 1970s grand tourers, and combines supple, muscular proportions with a sophisticated, elegant four-seat interior. It offers a glimpse into Kia's future design philosophy.

The Automotive Brand Contest 2012 award presentation ceremony will be held at the Paris Motor Show on Automotive Designers' Night, 27 September 2012.

Kia Motors received several accolades at last year's inaugural Automotive Brand Contest, winning the Best of the Best award in the brand design category, while Kia's Sportage, Rio and Optima models all claimed victories in the exterior category.

The contest is organised by the Rat für Formgebung (German Design Council).



The Kia GT – winner of the concept award. The car was inspired by 1970s grand tourer models

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2005 54 Reg	BMW 5 SERIES 525 D SE 4-dr Saloon, Blue, 120,000 miles, FFSH, air con, cruise control.....	£5,495
2007 57 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE 3-dr, Blue, FSH, 31,042 miles.....	£4,995
2007 57 Reg	MAZDA RX-8 4-dr Coupe, Black, 16,000 miles, service history, climate control, alloys.....	£4,995
2007 07 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 5-dr, Manual, Metallic Silver, 27,000 miles.....	£4,795
2003 53 Reg	AUDI A3 2.0 FSI 3-dr, Metallic Blue, Service History, Alloys.....	£4,795
2003 03 Reg	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.9 DTI High Roof Van 2.9T, Diesel, White, 66,000 miles.....	£4,695
2003 52 Reg	MINI COOPER 1.6 3-dr, Yellow, One Owner, Alloys, 71,293 miles.....	£4,695
2005 05 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr, Grey, FSH, Air Con, Alloys, 59,100 miles.....	£4,295
2006 06 Reg	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0+ Silver, 55,000 miles, £20 road fund licence, group 1 insurance, RCL, alloys, EW, PAS.....	£3,995
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The Astra BiTurbo 5-door Hatch, built in Ellesmere Port comes with Vauxhall's Lifetime Warranty

Astra's BiTurbo Hatch and Tourer are hot off mark

HOT ON the heels of the GTC BiTurbo, Vauxhall is adding two more high performance diesels with 195PS and 400 Nm torque to its Astra range.

The British-built Astra BiTurbo 5-door Hatch and Sports Tourer – which becomes the most powerful estate in its class – offer blistering performance, high levels of practicality and frugality.

Both models have a top speed in excess of 135mph and can achieve 0-60mph in under eight seconds. The boost in performance does not compromise economy either, with low CO2 emissions of 134g/km and a combined 55.4mpg. Both models have Start/Stop technology. Twin turbo technology is

rare in this class and the Astra uses a sequential turbocharging system, with the smaller turbo accelerating quickly at lower speeds to eliminate 'lag', providing 320Nm of torque from 1,250rpm. In the mid-range of rpm, both turbochargers operate together, with the larger turbocharger pre-compressing the intake air, before it is fully compressed in the smaller one.

A bypass valve is controlled continuously to pass on part of the exhaust gases to the larger turbo. As a result, the driver still enjoys smooth acceleration. At higher rpm (from around 3,000rpm) all the gases flow directly to the larger turbocharger, maintaining the fluid power delivery at higher speeds. Built at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire, the new deriva-

tives benefit from the recent styling refresh that can be found across the Astra range.

The aggressive new look includes a revised front grille, new front indicators and fog lamps, and refreshed rear-panel styling. Both BiTurbo models come with an array of unique features including 18" alloy wheels, twin rear exhausts, exterior styling pack and alloy sports pedals.

Available to order tomorrow, with first deliveries expected late 2012, prices start from £24,095 for the Hatch and from £25,110 for the Sports Tourer. As with all Vauxhall passenger cars, Lifetime Warranty is standard, giving first owners the peace of mind of a warranty that lasts the car's lifetime, up to a maximum 100,000 miles.

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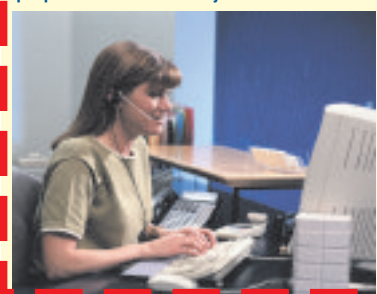


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MINI COOPER S, 07 reg, black, tax, MoT s/h, traction control, Sports mode, alarm, £5,850. Telephone 07918 156541.

MINI COOPER S (53), JCW upgrades, 63,500k, 17in alloys, 2 owners, 2 months tax, 10 months MoT, £5,295 ono. 07528 122866.

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i GLS 5 door, silver, August 2003, 59,000 miles, tax January, 12 months MoT, last owner since 2005. £2,150 ono.

01785 663899 or 07517 385986.

VAUXHALL CORSA black, 2005, good condition, service history, lady owner, tax and MoT, £2,800 ono. 07815 071673.

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55 plate.
Metallic blue.
One lady owner.
Alloy wheels.
Taxed and MoT'd.
CD player, AC, all electrics.
£3,000, o.n.o.
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01785 605698 (evenings only).

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£3,995.
01785 280001

VW GOLF 1.6 MATCH
53 reg, metallic green, 63,047 miles, 2 previous owners, fsh, c/l, e/w, CD, abs, MoT March 2013. £2,500.

07727 092880 or 01384 821581.

VW GOLF GTI 05 reg, silver, 64,000 miles, fsh, tax/MoT, very good condition, £6,000. Brewood 07961 842984.

VW GOLF GTI T, 150bhp, tax March 2013, MoT Oct 2012, 79.5K, 19ins alloys, coilovers, EW, EM, AC, £3,200. 07815 532108.

VW PASSAT SE 1.9TDI, 4 Motion, 53, 91k, silver, very good condition, fsh, top spec, £3,300. 01394 639465 - 07555 247767.

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FORD TRANSIT 280, SWB, TD, 52, good condition, fsh, tax and MoT, 120k, £1,500 ono. 07976 249031

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Cookley give their title bid a real boost

Cookley 1st XL (24pts) 154-9
Birlingham (Apts) 146

COOKLEY boosted their Worcestershire League promotion hopes with a tense victory over fellow high-flyers Birlingham.

Andy Goral was the hero for Cookley with his five-wicket haul securing a key win.

Cookley's batting failed to fire, with Adam Nicholls top-scoring again, but with only 27, while Alex Ray had the unfortunate experience of a 'golden duck'.

Birlingham looked certain to win but Goral's man of the match display saw him bag 5-30. There are just six games to go with Cookley heading the table by 10 points.

Cookley 2nds (8pts) 219
Feckenham 2nds (8pts) match abandoned.

Fine batting from Lee Shewry (71) and Matty Goode 62 saw Cookley's seconds post a competitive total of 219.

But their hopes of victory were hit by the elements again as rain led to an abandonment as the worst weather-affected season in living memory continues.

Bewdley edged out in a thriller

Bewdley 141 (4 pts) lost to Rushwick 142 (24 pts) by 1 run
Bewdley lost a thrilling Worcestershire League encounter by a single run off the last ball of the game.

They entered the last over needing six to win with two wickets in hand, and with one ball to go still required two with a single wicket in hand.

But Rushwick bowler Diley found a fine yorker to bowl Jack Mills.

Bewdley had earlier bowled well to dismiss their opponents in the last over for 142. David Jones found a little bit of lateral movement and deserved his figures of 5-36 with Mills (3-50) offering support.

In reply, Bewdley were indebted to Rob Combes (38) and useful contributions from Connor Franklin and Martyn Carr to take the score to 126-8 but the last word of an enthralling game belonged to Diley.

Bewdley 2nd XI 210-9 (8 pts)
drew with Rushwick 2nd XI 191-7 (14pts)

Worcestershire stars shine at Festival



The successful Worcestershire Under-14 side show the spoils of their success

WORCESTERSHIRE UNDER-14s are celebrating after winning the national title at this year's Taunton Festival.

The talented youngsters, who won the under-13 competition last summer, took a creditable draw against Yorkshire in their first outing. Malvern College's Zen Malik took 3-56 and Ombersley's Josh Dell 57.

Worcestershire's fortunes improved as they restricted Derbyshire to 209 with Ombersley's Josh Tongue taking 4-41. In reply, Worcestershire eased home with seven overs to spare thanks to an unbeaten 70 from Malik.

Further victories followed against Dorset with captain Nick Hammond (Ombersley) scoring a superb 143 not out. Then Josh Dell hit 106 out of 231-5 before Devon made 157-8.

The competition reached its climax on the

final day as Worcestershire were still two points behind leaders Yorkshire.

Worcestershire achieved extra bowling points by bowling out Gloucestershire for 112 with Malik and Dell taking three wickets each. The Pears finished worthy winners, led by Henry Mobberley and Harry Adair, who both scored 36.

With Yorkshire held to a draw by Derbyshire, Worcestershire, under the guidance of manager Jon Roe and coach Nathan Round, won the title by three points.

Roe said: "The five-day tournament was very hard, playing in intense heat. They competed as a team and all played a part. They represented the county of Worcestershire well and all played to the very highest standard and upheld the spirit of cricket. They are simply the best!"

Boss Burr takes aim at below par Harriers

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS were on the receiving end of a blast from boss Steve Burr after Stourbridge lifted the Worcestershire Senior Cup.

The Glassboys won the final at Harriers' Aggborough base courtesy of a solitary strike from Sam Rock.

Visiting goalkeeper Lewis Solly denied Burr's men with a number of saves but the Harriers boss was accepting no excuses for defeat after the match.

"I thought too many of our lads were off it and it was a disappointing performance," said Burr.

"I can't think of anybody who came out of it with any real credit.

"I don't want to take anything away from Stourbridge, they got their goal and after that we huffed and puffed a little bit.

"Hopefully a performance like this will give us a little kick up the backside."

Stourbridge took the lead in the eighth minute, Rock tucking home from close range after Stuart Hendrie's shot thumped the post.

Former Stourbridge striker Ryan Rowe tried to respond for Harriers but saw his stab at goal held well by Solly.

Rowe looked the best route back to level terms for the hosts and, when he wasn't having a pop himself, he was setting them up.

Rowe slid in the ball to Danny Pilkington nine minutes before the break, but the winger could only blaze over the bar.

By Craig Birch

The forward then nodded a near-post header narrowly wide just after the re-start.

On 53 minutes, Rowe saw a close-range shot saved by Solly before substitute Steve Guinan sent the follow-up over the bar.

Guinan was later denied by another neat Solly save and with the pressure building Harriers hit the bar twice in a minute.

In the 64th minute, Stourbridge's Paul McCone nearly scored an own goal when his header from a Exodus Geohaghen throw struck the woodwork, before substitute Mickey Demetriou's rising shot also hit the bar.

James Vincent went within inches of getting Harriers level inside the last 10 minutes but saw his shot go just wide before Guinan was denied by Solly with just five minutes left to play.

Harriers: Lewis, Dunkley (Demetriou 46), Geohaghen, Austin, Williams, Shakes, Vincent, Briggs (Storer 70), Pilkington (Guinan 46), Rowe, Johnson. **Subs not used:** N Vaughan, Gittings.

Stourbridge: Solly, Lloyd, Griffiths, Rock (Rock 85), McCone, Bennett, Hendrie (Ward 79), Geddes, Turton (Dovey 70), Billingham, Canavan. **Subs not used:** Knight, Slater.

Referee: Wayne Barratt
Attendance: 1,021



Harriers' Chey Dunkley challenges Sam Rock



Kidderminster's Ricky Shakes climbs high to win an aerial battle

Hangover as return to league falls flat

KIDDERMINSTER suffered a Kingfisher Beer Cup hangover as they returned to Birmingham League Premier Division action against Brockhampton.

After two good league wins they could not bag a third straight success following the disappointment of their exit from the National KO competition.

Kidderminster batted first and opens Andy Kimberlin and Connor Smith scored 24 before Smith was caught by David Exall for 11.

Kimberlin and Neil Pinner took the score to 75 before the hosts' progress was checked by two wickets in two balls as Kimberlin (36) and Ben Cox fell to Charlie Griffiths.

Zac Turley joined Pinner, and the score reached 98 before Turley was out for 10. Jonathan Wright and Pinner took the total to 126, but Wright was bowled by Exall for 11.

Pinner looked in good form, but having reached 56, he was out leg before to Exall.

Marc Edwards and Richard Kimberlin fell in quick succession as Kidderminster closed on 173-9 from 55 overs.

Brockhampton required 149 from 41 overs to get the winning draw or pass Kidderminster's score for a win.

Kidderminster's opening bowler Richard Kimberlin struck to remove Exall, caught by Turley for five.

Chris Bourghs fell to Gareth Williams for 15 to leave the visitors on 42-2 after 12 overs. A stand of 51 between Ben Stebbings and Henry Langford set Brockhampton on the way.

Stebbins was dismissed by Gareth Williams for 35 with Langford making 52. Johnny Walker added 33 as Brockhampton took the lion's share of the points.

Kidderminster travel to Himley on Saturday.

More woe as run continues

Belbroughton 194-7
Stourport 163

STOURPORT first XI's recent poor form continued as they lost to Belbroughton.

Batting first, Belbroughton posted 194-7 from their 50 overs. Bevan Neill was the pick of the Stourport bowling with 4-44. In reply, David Pittaway (30) and Andrew Cavendish (28) were the main contributors as Stourport fell for 163.

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Cup final woe
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Rising stars
Trophy success
for cricket aces
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Harriers striker on the move to rivals

KIDDERMINSTER striker Robbie Thompson-Brown has signed a deal with Conference Premier rivals Nuneaton Town after being released by Aggborough boss Steve Burr.

Thompson-Brown found his first team opportunities limited at Harriers and figured just four times last season before ending the campaign on loan with Solihull Moors.

He featured in some of Kidderminster's pre-season games but boss Burr agreed to release him and he featured as a substitute for Boro against Leamington on Saturday.

"Robbie is a young player with a fantastic amount of potential and it is time for him to go and fulfil that," said Burr.

"He's been with us for a couple of seasons but he is ready to be playing much more often now and I certainly don't want to hold back his progress.

"We wish Robbie all the best for the forthcoming season."

Harriers launch their Conference campaign away at Lincoln on Saturday (3pm) before kicking off their home fixtures with a clash against Luton next Tuesday (7.45pm).

Another home clash against Mansfield follows on Saturday, August 18.

James takes honours in golf contest

HENRY JAMES took the honours in Kidderminster Golf Club's Eric Knight Club Championship.

James, playing off a handicap of +3, carded scores of 69 and 76 to finish four shots ahead of Mark Dudley.

Scott Mason came home third after rounds of 78 and 73.

Bob Taylor lifted the Junior Cup with a two-round total of 163 while Kidderminster Juniors Callum Hutchinson, Cameron Dean, Josh Thorp and Henry James retained the County Boys Trophy and now go forward to play at Blackwell in the next round.

There was more club success as Roger Price and Richard Secker triumphed in the Seniors Open at Churchill and Blakedown.

Results: Ladies final stableford, Silver Division: Yvonne Foley 33 points; Bronze: Elizabeth Johnson 32; Bronze 2: Sharon Cartwright 32.



Kate Walker presents Samurai coach Ian Mills with his fifth level black belt award

Stalwart Mills receives belt

Samurai Judo Club

THE promotion of one of Samurai Judo Club's stalwart coaches, Ian Mills, to fifth level black belt has been confirmed.

Mills started judo at Lacom Childe School in the 1970s before moving to a series of clubs, eventually settling at Samurai in 1983. In his younger contest career he won a silver at the Swedish Under-23 Open and a bronze at the Belgium Senior Open and trained full time for three years, including a spell in Japan.

In 1998 he won silver at the British Kata Championships and then won three silvers at the British Masters Championships, also winning silver at the World Masters in

Canada. For more than 20 years he has been coaching at the Samurai club, specializing in the senior high grades group. His groundwork is considered top rate but his standing work is also high standard.

He was also heavily involved with the building of the club's new premises, with his company doing all of the interior work.

At the formal opening, Ian's fifth dan was presented by Kate Walker, herself a third dan and Worcestershire's most successful ever judo player.

Meanwhile, the club are hoping to cash in

on the Olympics by running a series of courses for new members. Three short-term courses for parents and older players start in September, with a women-only session on Tuesdays and groups on Thursdays and Fridays. There are beginner courses on Thursdays for younger children and Fridays for eight plus, with a senior and older junior beginners on Thursdays.

There has been a steady trickle of people returning to the sport and a senior session on Thursdays is ideal for this type of player. Anybody interested should telephone 0776 1122977 or visit the Samurai website at <http://www.samurai.org.uk/>

League in shock after the death of cricketer

THIS week's Worcestershire County Cricket League round-up is overshadowed by the shock death of Pedmore's Richard Beaumont.

After claiming a five-wicket haul, Beaumont, aged 33, suffered a heart attack on the boundary's edge during the clash with Astwood Bank and died en-route to hospital.

The game was abandoned. The cricket action saw Pershore knocked off top spot in Division One despite a winning draw at in-form Worcester.

Nomads recorded the day's largest victory with a 215-run success at Bromyard to move four points clear of Pershore, who have a 30-point lead over the rest.

They are led by Oldswinford, who scraped a seven-run win at home to Colwall.

Hagley had the better of a draw at Redditch that has planted the hosts bottom, one point behind Colwall and six behind Hagley and Coombs Wood.

Belbroughton are up to third in Division Two after defeating mid-table Stourport.

The shock result of the day came at fourth-placed Bewdley where the home side lost by one run to Rushwick.

Alvechurch and Enville fought out a draw with the scores level after 40 overs each and in the final game, Wormelow won the relegation tussle with Romsley thanks to 96 not out from Tom Bevan.

In Division Three, leaders Cookley had a tight eight-run win at Birlingham.

Alveley are now fifth after defeating bottom side Kidderminster and in the other games, Chadlosley recorded only their second win of the season, beating Stourbridge Social.

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AMY PONDERERS HER SWIMMING FUTURE

KIDDERMINSTER Olympian Amy Smith is unsure what her next step will be after ending her Games journey.

The swimmer bowed out of London 2012 after just missing out on reaching the 100m and 50m finals.

She helped Team GB finish fifth in the 4x100m relay and the medley relay team reach the final – although she was left out of the race as the squad claimed fifth place.

Smith will take a break from competition to recover from the Games and will look for a new coach with Ian Armiger moving to the Cayman Islands. The Loughborough-based 25-year-old says she must wait to discover what the future holds.

She said: "I'm not sure when my next competition is. It depends when I come back and where I'm going to be training because my coach is leaving for the Cayman Islands to work out there.

Relax

"I need to find a new coach and I don't know where that will be yet.

"I'm going to relax for a bit, have a bit of time off and come back and build on what I have done. It's been a roller-coaster. The 100m wasn't quite what I wanted but the 50m did shock me because I didn't think I would come out as ninth in the world.

"I've really enjoyed the experience and the team has been great and the crowd – amazing. I could not have enjoyed it any more. I'm slightly frustrated with some aspects but I'm generally pleased – I'm taking the positives."

Smith can say she has won an Olympic race after winning her 50m swim-off to

by Nick Mashiter

reach the semi-final race.

Her time of 25.28secs placed her 16th overall – dead on the ranking needed to qualify for the semi-finals – and she beat American Kara Lynn Joyce and Iceland's Sarah Blake Bateman win through.

She said of taking the Aquatics Centre spotlight: "Walking out for the swim-off was amazing, the crowd were chanting my name and I just thought 'make the most of this because it's not going to happen again'."

"It's been awesome. Being part of it has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Knowing I was better than them was amazing. It's not often you can say you've been in an Olympic race, won and been able to celebrate in front of your home crowd."

"I know there were only three of us but I really enjoyed it."

"I came out so gutted, I didn't come across that great in some of the interviews because I was pretty devastated I hadn't made it through the rounds."

"I'm not always the most confident in races which is something I need to work on and getting into the swim-off showed me how



Kidderminster's Amy Smith tasted victory in the Olympic pool when she won a race-off to reach the 50m semi-finals

much I wanted to be in it.

"It was really frustrating – apart from fourth, ninth is the worst place you could come. It's always so close in a 50m."

"It's all hindsight but as far as I'm concerned I swam a good race."

"I will watch it back. It's a

good way to learn but my next race isn't for a while.

"Everyone at home is really proud. For a little town like Kidderminster it seems to be quite a big deal."

"I feel like I've done my best and done people proud."

GB volleyball player Rachel Bragg is also from

Kidderminster and archer Naomi Folkard lives in the town while Paralympic swimmer Claire Cashmore is a native.

Smith said that the town can be proud of their Olympic athletes.

"We do seem to be doing a decent job – it must be the

sugar beet," she joked. "It seems to be good. For such a small place we're doing really well."

"The facilities in the area have developed as well and maybe that's part of the reason."

"It's great for Kidderminster."



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